

Boatman
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In 1812 Sheldon Clark of the Levels took up land on Briery Knob and shortly after discovered coal this section is about 4400 feet above sea level, the next thing to do was open this coal up so with the help of Johny B Kennison of Hillsboro and George Lee of Millpoint they built a road from the forks of the road known as the crossroads to the coal bank on Briery Knobb, Sherman, Peter, Alvan, Henry and Preston Clark helped build the road they were sons of Sheldon Clark.

This was a drift mine and the first coal mined there was wagoned to The Little Levels to be used by farmers, stores and by Blacksmiths in their shops, in later years this was operated by Ellis McCarty, K.O Wade and Nick McCoy they having secured a contract with Smith & Whiting who were working for The St. Lawrence Boom & Mfg. Co of Ronceverte who were Manufacturing the white pine of Pocahontas County on the East side of the Greenbrier River, McCarty, Wade and McCoy furnished Smith & Whiting near 150 tons of coal for which they received from \$12. to \$14.00 a ton delivered to them at Laurel Run where they were operating at that time this was something like 1884 & 85. *For their log engine named Jesse*

The next mining was done by George Walton as he rented it for a period of five years selling the coal he mined to the Blacksmiths, to stores and for use in private homes after his contract was out Kit Thomas and Norvel W Clark operated the mine in the fall of the year for some two years and after that the mine layed idle for a number of years but in 1934 or 35 S.C Bartholomew leased the mine he of Hillsboro he had the mine reopened track was layed and the coal mined and carted out over this track by hand he employed from 3 to 4 men the year around using more men during the rush season the Government owned land beyond the mine so the C.C.C built a good road to the mine Bartholomew furnishing some trucks when the road was completed this mine did a good business as Bartholomew operated two trucks in the hauling of coal to the many sections of the county Richard Arbogast of Millpoint and Hubert Miller of Hillsboro driving for him, this ~~if~~ coal was sold locally to stores, private homes and a vast amount was sold to the Board of Education and was delivered to the many schools

Commerce And Industry. S.G Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.
Coal

of Pocahontas County especially The Little Levels school.

X Bartholomew paid a royalty of 20 cts. per ton to the Clark heirs. The slack or fine coal was used in burning lime as Bartholomew had a draw kiln at the foot of Croop Mountain which he operated in connection with the coal mine this kiln was on the H.W Beard farm where there is an abundance of limestone of high analysis, and here they put out thousands of tons of burned lime both in the rock and slacked lime that was bought by the farmers of Pocahontas County, Bartholomew employed from 3 to 5 men during the summer months besides his truckers.

The Briery Knob land was sold in 1939 to the United States Of America but reserving the coal, oil gas and other mineral rights and at this time Bartholomew's contract had expired and since that time the mine has been idle as the steel was all taken up and disposed of but this mountain is full of high grade coal and no doubt when other fields are exhausted this mine will be opened up again.

Information. N.W Clark. Hillsboro. W. Va.

Court Records . Marlinton. W. Va.

Pocahontas 7
West Virginia Writers' Project
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R. W Brown Greenbank. W. Va.

And Employes of Gardner Packard at Cloverlick.



Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

741 The first Tub Mill and Saw Mill in the Greenbank community was owned and operated by the pioneer Wooddells probably Joseph Wooddell, this tub mill the top stone is stationary and the bottom stone the runner, while the grist mill the bottom stone is stationary and the top stone the runner a tilt hammer was installed at this mill which was greatly needed by the pioneers in making tools and implements of iron and steel this operation took place on the Henry Wooddell place in Greenbank, the lumber that finished the old colonial house of Jacob Warwick at Cloverlick was sawed on this mill at Greenbank thome 130 years ago. A Tilt Hammer was installed at this mill which was greatly needed by the pioneers in making tools and implements of iron and steel namely horse shoes, wagon tires, shovel plows, bolts, nails and many others, few people living in the town of Greenbank today know that such a machine as the Tilt Hammer was operated in the town of Greenbank.

About 1799 the water power of North Fork was beginning to be harnessed up this was called Cartmills Creek at that time, here a Tub mill was built that was in operation for 10 to 15 years this was all built by Harman Conrad, his son Solomon in later years remodeled the mill and added to the corn rocks a way to grind buckwheat and wheat and in connection had an Up and Down saw mill and a dry kiln which was always filled with the very best White Pine lumber that found a ready sale. This Solomon Conrad homestead is the oldest house in the Greenbank community.

Commerce & Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

About 1822 Patrick Bruffey built a grist mill and Saw Mill combined and in Connection had a blacksmith shop and established a wagon shop and supplied the community and surrounding territory with wagons, Bruffey later became Sheriff of Pocahontas County and died 1853 and today you find milling going on at this same location but the mill is known today as The North Fork Milling Co, and from the very first has been the main stand by for the community.

The pioneer Daniel Kerr located on Deer Creek at the close of the Revolutionary War and established a grist mill, saw mill and blacksmith shop and a little later a lathe was installed and was operated by Fredrick Phillips who was a wheel right and made spinning wheels, looms, reels, spools, frames and chairs. This was the only water power mill on Deer Creek.

About 1819 Lundy Taylor settled on Galfords Creek and erected a grist mill and saw mill that was kept running until 1880.

About 1825 to 30 John Yeager erected a saw mill on Block Run a branch of North Fork and it was here that the finishing lumber was sawed for the old log church on the Allegheny Mountain. The old mill site was about two miles from the Yeager homestead and the Allegheny Battle Field on the Block Run the Monongahela National Forest passes through the old mill dam.

A few years after the Civil War Dr. J. P. Moonau erected an Up & Down mill near Greenbank, the lumber sawed was mostly Cherry which was sold to cabinet makers in this section and was made into furniture for the settlers of

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Greenbank community.,a carding machine was installed along with this mill turning out wool yarn to the many weavers of that time in and around Greenbank this carding machine was operated by William B Woodrill.

The last water power Saw Mill on North Fork was built and operated by Robert J Brown on Sutton Run,it was built about 1885 and was kept in running condition until 1907 in connection with this Saw Mill there was a rip saw,shingle mill,turning lathe and planing mill this was the first planing mill in the Greenbank community the finished lumber being used to finish the many houses that were being built by the settlers at this time.

The germs of time and decay have destroyed all the water power mills in this section except the North Fork Milling Company mill which is still in operation.

North Fork and Deer Creek of the Deer Creek valley beautiful mountain streams flow gently toward the sea with their power unharnessed.

Pocahontas County has many mountain streams and if harnessed would furnish an abundance of power to run machinery and generate electricity some of the most famous streams are Hills Creek,Locust Creek and Stamping Creek in the southern end of Pocahontas County,Williams River,Swago Creek,Beaver Creek,Knapps Creek and Clover Creek of the center of the county the latter Clover Creek has been harnessed near Cloverlick with a dam and a dynamo that furnish

Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
electricity to Cloverlick and the surrounding territory this water wheel
was installed by Berry Coyner of Cloverlick, and was erected in 1937 with a
franchise from the state to set poles and furnish electricity to the people
of Cloverlick and near by territory.

of Balt. Md
In 1931 a man by the name of Gardner Packard with his cousin the
late William C Gardner started the operation of a post and rail plant at Cl-
overlick the posts were locust and the rails of Chestnut bought from farmers

of Pocahontas County it required many thousand of each this has furnished a
market for our locust and Chestnut timber they were trucked to Cloverlick and
there finished ready for shipment to New York and Maryland to be used for fen-
cing as the salt water from the ocean in the mist that covers certain areas of
these states causes fast decay of metal fencing most of these rails and post
went to Long Island, they also made what is known as hurdle fence that went to
New York state to be built on some of the old colonial estates where they have
and raise fancy horses namely the Whitneys, Vanderbilts and others, the power to
run this plant is generated at Cloverlick. This operation not only furnishes a
market for our timber but furnishes employment to many men either at the plant
or in trucking or cutting the timber from all over Pocahontas County.

These posts and rails are shipped out over the C & O from Cloverlick
to Maryland, New York and other seaboard states.

Other streams that could be put to use in Pocahontas County are Deer

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Creek, North Fork, Galfords Creek, Sitlington Creek and a part of Cheat River
of the upper half of the county and Elk River of the North Western part, the
future of these streams is in the making as they could be harnessed so as
to furnish power for the entire county, electricity for the rural sections.

Greenbrier River with the fall it has could be put to work furnishing
electricity for both power and lights and it is hoped that in the near future
some one will undertake to harness some of our many streams thereby furn-
ishing electricity and power to the rural sections of Pocahontas County this
would cause the wheels of industry to roll and Pocahontas County would again
be one of W. Va.'s industrial counties.

Information. 1st part from Pocahontas Times and R. W Brown. Greenbank. W. Va.

latter part. observation and employes of Gardner Packard working at Clover-
lick.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Juanita S. Dilley

Clover Hick. "V. Va.

Chapter 5 section 3b

July 12, 1940

TANNERS, MILLERS AND BLACKSMITHS

NORTH FORK MILL

This mill was erected by Uriah Hevener, Sr., in the year of 1879, on the site of the old Bruffey flour mill. Patric Bruffey had erected a flour mill on the same site about the year of 1825 which was deiven by an over shot water wheel; he also had an up and down saw mill driven by the same water power arrangment, which had been supplanted by a new saw mill in the 1870's

In the last few years the mill was operated under the firm name of The North Fork Milling Company, but was known far and near as the Hevener Mill. It was erected when the famous white pine trees were plentiful and all the frame work was hewed and dressed by hand, all the framing was mortised, draw bored and pinned with locust pins. No spikes were used in the frame work. The entire building was four stories high including the basement and was a complete masterpiece of architecture. The modern carpenter would always stand in admiration and marvel at its perfect construction.

The services of James Elliott was secured to build the mill and with the help of Eldridge Brown and a Mr. Propps did all the carpenter work on the building. Charles P. Brown laid the foundation and did the mason work. The machinery was put into perfect running condition by a millwright by the name of Corann and Robert J. Brown, carpenter helper.

Many different millers operated the mill during the past sixty years. Perhaps Robert W. Gum worked the mill longer than any other miller.

In keeping up with industry, and in view of the needs of the Greenbank community it may be observed that the old Bruffey mill and the Hevener mill was a center of industry and had their place of importance in the niche of the history of the Greenbank community.

James Elliott, the master mechanic of the building was a soldier in the Indian wars; was a private under the command of General George A. Custer, and General Reno. He was with Reno's army when Custer's company was massacred in 1876. Mr. Elliott's affidavit was taken by Squire John P. Townsend in 1926 for the purpose of securing a pension as an Indian war veteran. He died before the papers were ratified by the U. S. Government. He was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War under the command of General Kirby Smith, and Dick Taylor in the South West. After the war he worked his way from Mississippi to Iowa, and from there in company with a man named Reynolds went to the Dakotas on a trapping expedition and thereby enlisted in Custer's Army.

On Saturday night, March 2, 1940 the North Fork Mill was utterly and completely destroyed by fire. This disaster is considered the most unfortunate event of a calamitous nature that has affected the Greenbank neighborhood since the days of the Civil War. J. B. Orndorf owner of the mill had worked in the mill all day without fire. Different persons had passed the mill just after dark and saw no light or fire. The fire was discovered about 7 p.m., by Clyde Gillispie and Cecil Arbogast who live near by:

the whole inside was a mass of flames when first discovered. In less than half an hour the whole structure was a mass of ruined machinery. The entire loss is estimated at more than \$10,000.

The two turbine drive wheels are still in the water deck in regular arrangement. This mill has been the main stand by for the neighborhood for a period of about sixty years. - *From Times - by Roscoe Brown of Greenbank*

* Patrick Bruffey, who erected the mill on this site in 1825 was a very useful and prominent citizen; a skilled workman in stone, iron and wood, and filled most of the official positions in the gift of the county.

* John Jordan, the ancestor of the relationship of that name in lower Pocahontas, was a very worthy native of Ireland. By occupation he was a tailor, and when he once met a fellow member of the craft after a prolonged separation his friend was very demonstrative in the pleasure the meeting afforded him. In his joyful exhilaration he struck his friend Jordan on the back of his hand with a side blow of his own. This friendly lick was so powerful as to inflict a bruise so serious in its effects as to necessitate amputation of the arm just below the elbow. Nevertheless he learned to use a hoe or ax to a good purpose in after life. He came to this region as a traveling merchant, dealing in Irish linens and other portable merchantdise. He was a "hard money" man in his financial preferences, and converted all paper money he received into silver and gold. Miss Miriam McNeel, daughter of John McNeel the pioneer, found out in some way that the young merchant had about a half bushel of coin, and it seemed to occur to her mind that if a person disabled as he was could make that much money,

he could certainly take good care of her. To the surprise of her friends that a nice sensible girl as she was should fancy a cripple, but she did not discourage the attentions of the hustling young Irishman, and they were married. At that period in our local history a young mans recommendation was his ability to clear land, split rails, and grub stumps, but to marry a cripple in store clothes was not to be thought of.

After their marriage Mr. Jordan continued to prosper in making a living, and purchased some servants to wait on the girl that had made such a surprising venture as to marry him. He settled on Millstone Run and opened up a fine farm. There were five sons and three daughters.

THE MCNEEL MILL

The McNeel mill at Millpoint was built about eighty years ago by Isaac McNeel. Mr. McNeel owned the mill until his death, after which time it belonged to his son Dr. Winters McNeel of Hillsboro. On July 8th. I visited this mill and was told by the present proprietor G. N. Dalton that this mill had ~~always~~ been in operation practically every week day since its erection 80 years ago. He said that he had visitors from many states and that they believed it to be the only remaining frame key building in the world. I am not authority enough on the mills of the world to say if this is correct, but it is probably the only one in the county. At any rate the frame work is put together without nails, and is so well built that after 80 years there is not a give in the building, but it stands there as solid as if built only yesterday. This mill grinds both corn and wheat. Throughout the years it had ground unbleached flour, the only mill in the county that did not

Output { It is at Danmore grinds unbleached flour

have a bleacher. Mr Dalton says that he has been told by authorities that it is the only known mill grinding unbleached flour.

However, in April 1940 a bleacher was installed, but he says that many people of the vicinity still prefer the unbleached flour and that he grinds about four barrels per month. Bread made from the unbleached flour is said not only to be more delicious but is also more healthful as bleaching takes out all of the oils. Mr. Dalton runs the mill for Mr. McNeel on a percentage bases, and he tells me that he is busy most of the time grinding flour, meal, and feed. The original water wheel was a wooden overshot wheel, but was replaced several years ago by a metal wheel.

There has been a mill at Millpoint ever since the one erected by Valentine Cackley, Sr. in 1800, and it has always been a paying business as there are so many good farms in the surrounding country side and much stock is also raised, therefore feed is always in demand. Both the Cackley mills were located a short distance down stream from the McNeel mill.

Wooden overshot water wheels wear out; they would get heavy on the shady side. The shrewd salesman from the north would then show the advantage of the steel fabricated water wheel and of the turbine. Take an artfully constructed water wheel out of commission and it is surprising how quickly it went to pieces.

Now while a mountain man who is worth his salt and tobacco can still take an axe and make a grist mill complete, big or little, as his present need may require, I must admit that we quit training up skilled, professional mill wrights a generation back, about the time we let ourselves get out of bear dogs.

WILLIAMS MILL

However, a mill run by an overshot wooden water wheel is still to be found in Pocahontas. It was made and is still owned by Squire G. M. Williams of Bruffeys Creek. Some years ago for his own convenience and that of his neighbors he rigged himself up a grist mill. He worked rainy days and made himself a water wheel fifteen feet in diameter, out of wood. It makes around eight revolutions per minute. For a spindle he used the drive shaft of a tractor steam engine, gear and all. He dammed Bruffeys Creek to put the water in a sluiceway he dug around the hillside. For corn rocks he had the choice of French burrs or a pair of millstones made from Allegheny pebblestone out of the old Smith Mill on Greenbrier River above Seebert. The squire says the Allegheny stone is far superior to the much vaunted French burrs, as the Allegheny stone does not wear like other burrs, and so do not require dressing up so often. A Mr. Couch, railroad man and utility magnate from the Ozark region of Arkansas, wishes to make a grist mill run with an overshot water wheel; all home made. So, He sent three young men to Pocahontas to see what we had in the way of mills of this type. The Williams mill was visited and measurements and pictures taken.

They also visited the old Beard mill on Locust Creek, now owned by Sydney McCoy. (Read-Pocahontas Times, July 4, 1940 under item "Milling Around" for part of the above material.)

I visited the tannery of Benton Smith at Millpoint only a few days after Mr. Price and the three Arkansas travelers were there. I wanted to get the names of all the Smiths who had been tanners. He says that the first Smith of his family, so far as he

knows, was James Smith who was bound to a tanner in Staunton, Va. until he was twenty-one years of age. Then he came to Pocahontas County and rented Wallaces Tannery at Millpoint. He never had a tannery of his own. He had five sons, three of whom were tanners. Jake Smith had his tannery located at Edray, but he did not make up his leather. William Smith had no tannery but he made harness, saddles, and shoes. He also lived at Edray. It is probable that he bought the leather from his brother Jake. Joe Smith had a tannery and was located at Millpoint. Isaac Smith, another son, had his tannery on the Greenbrier River between Seebert and Watoga. Pleas Smith, the fifth son, lived at Edray and was a country doctor.

Edgar A. Smith, father of Benton Smith, has a tannery near Watoga. He tans the leather and does some repair work but does not make up much of his leather. Benton Smith says that he worked in the tannery with his father until four years ago, at which time he moved to Millpoint and built a tannery of his own. His is the good old oak tanned leather. The first spell is in the vat for one month; the second is for two months; the third for three months. If the leather is light that is enough. The fourth is for four months, and this is for heavy sides for sole leather. There were a lot of bear pelts in the process of tanning and the deer hides numbered more than one hundred. Mr. Smith has demand for tanned calf skin for leathercraft work. He makes harness and mens belts.

Andrew Young was a shoemaker.

Sampson Nottingham-----a shoemaker.

Henry Arbogast-----a blacksmith.

Jacob Yeager -----a blacksmith.

Samuel Gay of Elk-----a blacksmith.

Abraham Hill -----a blacksmith.

Joseph Friel----- a blacksmith.

Thomas Mays-----made shoes and harness. He lived
on Browns Creek.

From Court Records.

July 16, 1940

DUNMORE MILLS

I went to Dunmore yesterday to try to get the history of the mills up there. From a history of Dunmore written by Miss Ella Pritchard several years ago I got the following;

" The only flour mill for a number of miles was located at Dunmore, and run by a splendid water power which never froze nor went dry, making it dependable. The older mill was run by what is called an overshot wheel. Later another mill was erected by Col. Stephen Cornelius Pritchard who used the turbine wheel for power. On this old water power location was also an up and down saw mill, a carding machine which did splendid work, and a planing machine which made Dunmore a very business center."

As near as I can get it by what the older people tell me, Andrew Mathews built the first mill on this location some time before the Civil War. No one seems to know if he also owned the saw mill and carding machine or not, but since they were run by the same power, it is believed that he did.

According to Miss Ella Pritchard, Andrew Mathews sold his land to William L. Duncan and Isaac Moore. They changed the name of the place from Mathewville to Dunmore, using a combination of their names. Duncan then sold to John W. Warwick in 1855, and in 1860 it was bought by John Andrew Warwick, who in turn sold to a Mr. Johnson of Warm Springs, Va. Then in 1873, Cornelius Pritchard

exchanged a farm on Jackson River for this land at Dunmore. He built the present mill not long after he moved here. Therefore it was built sometime in the 1870's.

Cam McLaughlin, the present owner of the mill showed me through the old mill and explained the purpose of each machine. All of the old original machinery, cog wheels and all are of wood, and still in use. Lumber for the mill was sawed on the old up and down saw mill. Every piece was cut on the ground and ready for assemblage before the foundation was ever laid. Then when Mr. Pritchard started to build, all he had to do was to put it together. The old wheel was an overshot wooden wheel, this was replaced by a turbine. Mr Pritchard died leaving the mill to his heirs. They did not run it themselves but rented it or hired millers to run it for them. Among those caring for the mill for a time were Luther Campbell and Jack Duffy. About fifteen years ago the mill was bought by Cam McLaughlin. He built an addition to it which he used as a garage. For many years the mill was idle. Mr. McLaughlin made a wooden wheel to generate power for lights and to charge batterys etc. This wheel was replaced a few years ago by a metal wheel. About three years ago Mr. McLaughlin started the old mill to running again. Few people liked the unbleached flour so he does not grind wheat but uses the wheat burrs to grind buckwheat flour. It also has a corn burr.

There is some talk now of it being sold to a brewery company who wish to use the mineral water. Whether this deal goes through remains to be seen.

The Dunmore Roller Mill built by Winifred McElwee was not built until 1912.

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W.Va.
Pocahontas County

James E. A. Gibbs

Gibbs was a mechanic, a man of the tenant class who barely made a living for himself and his large family. For a time he was in charge of a combined grist mill, carding machine, and sawmill built by James A. Price at Marlins Bottom.

The idea of making a sewing machine came to Gibbs while he lived in the Little Levels on lands belonging to Col. Samuel Ruckman. It is said that his working model was carved by him from a laurel root.

He went into partnership with a man by the name of Wilcox at Wilmington, Delaware. Gibbs came back to Marlinton, leaving Wilcox to introduce the machine to the public. The Civil War broke out and he remained here. The Gibbs family almost starved.

When communication was opened with the north, after the war, Gibbs found that Wilcox had made a great success of the sewing machine, and had banked Gibbs' part of the money for him. Gibbs returned to Delaware and from that time on he was a rich man.

In the 1890's, Gibbs came back to Marlinton for several visits. He was over six feet tall and wore a tall silk hat. He said at that time that he had taken out 163 patents. His chain stitch sewing machine was known for generations as the Wilcox and Gibbs machine.

From---Pocahontas Times-Jan. 2, 1930
Calvin Price

Pocahontas Times---1923
Andrew Price

PocahontasBenita S. Dilley
Haver Lick, W. Va.
Dec. 19, 1940

Ch. 4, b. question 2 - Small Businesses

5, 3-b, question 2 - Millers.

John Johnson, whose home was at Marlins Bottom, heard that corn had matured in Nicholas. He started on foot to Nicholas, but lost his way in the Black Mountains. He was lost for nine days, but finally made his way to a house. There he was given food gradually until he could take a full meal. He made the trip to Nicholas, brought back the seed corn which planted one of the first crops grown in Pocahontas.

By the early part of the century corn could be ripened in the county, and since the people preferred corn meal to hominy meal, many grist and tub mills were built.

Some of the best known of these mills were: The two mills at Millpoint, built by the Cackleys. The lower mill being built by Valentine Cackley, who also promoted other industries such as a tannery, a tile hammer and a store. This was around 1830. The upper mill was built by Joseph Cackley in 1834 but was later sold to Sampson Matthews.

The Poage Mill on Knapps Creek. This mill was built in the late part of the 18th century by James Poage. When he emigrated to Kentucky, he sold it to Peter Lightner. Lightner improved it and for years accommodated a wide circle of customers. The Henry Harper mill succeeded this mill. The burrs used by this mill are on Cummings Creek, having been taken there by Price McComb. They are believed to be among the oldest in the county. These millstones were made by Adam Sharratt near Friels on the Greenbrier River. Sharratt also had a mill on Greenbrier River.

Dilley's mill, eight miles from Huntersville on Thorny Creek was built by Henry Dilley one of the four Dilley brothers who were among Pocahontas County's earliest pioneers. This mill was kept in the possession of the Dilleys throughout its years of service to the public, and the farm on which it stands is still in their possession.

The Michael Daugherty mill on Mill Run near Sunset. This is believed to be the first tub mill, propelled by water anywhere in this whole region. It was patronized by all sections of upper Pocahontas and had the reputation of being one of the best of its kind. Sometimes these tub mills were put on runs that had only sufficient water during the rainy season. For such mills a long hollow log was often used for trunking to carry the water to the wheel. These mills did not grind so much but their product was the sweetest and best obtainable. Michael Daugherty was one of the first of the nobility to settle on Knapps Creek. He was not only able to pay his own passage to America, but to hire the services of those who sold themselves as indented servants for a certain period of time.

Swago Mill operated by Jonathan McNeill. He was the eldest son of Thomas McNeill who came to Swago around 1769 and appears to have been an enterprising person. Milling, weaving, fulling cloth and powder making was carried on under his supervision. Coverlets woven by one Jones were still in use fifty years or more after they were woven. This mill is now held by Judge George McClintic, though of course its no longer in use.

There were many other grist mills. David James one of the first men to live on Droop Mountain had a mill. James Wanless a local minister operated two grist mills. Henry Clark had a mill on Spring Creek, but I haven't been able to get any authentic information about them. In fact, in every community of the county there were mills at one time or another. Mills have been placed on almost every stream of water large enough to turn a small wheel if only during the rainy season.

The burrs or stones for many of these mills were made from sandstone found in this county in such great quantity and of unusual hardness. Calvin Price has a pair of these mill stones made more than a century ago by John Hannah of Elk, for the mill that was on the Varner place on the Big Spring Fork of Elk R. They were given to Mr. Price by the late Samuel Varner when he sold his farm. They are about 30 inches in diameter, and weigh over 100 lbs. each. Mr. Price believes they are made of this Droop sandstone found here in the county.

However, as soon as it was possible, the home made millstones were replaced with imported stones. French burrs appear to have been the desired ones in the more permanent mills that did custom grinding. The early settler was a resourceful man and if he could not get the imported ones he made them from material at hand.

About the Varner Mill, the story goes that John Hannah built the outfit complete in one day except the "jigging thing". That appears to have been the bark or board attached to the bottom, stationary stone, down which spouted the meal. These mills served well their day and an occasional one can be found still standing, though not in use. (Some of these mills were repaired and used by the moonshiners during the days of prohibition.)

Aside from these grist mills there were also powder mills located on many of the mill runs of the county. The original name of Mill Run on Lanty McNeel's place between Hillsboro and Beard, was Powder Mill Run. The site of the power mill was just above where the county road crosses. The powder maker was a man by the name of Hannah. He had a peculiar and effective line of sales talk. He would remark that he made powder and had plenty of it, and would sell it, but that many of the hunters did not like his product, in fact he did not particularly care to use it himself. This of

reply would be that it was too quick. A quick powder of course was the one most desired for the old type of mountain rifle.

Thomas McNeill, the Swago pioneer, maintained considerable of a powder plant on Swago Creek, near the residence of Squire Rogers. He boiled his salt petre from the rich soil to be found in the limestone caves of this region, particularly the cave on the McClintic lands not far from the residence of Lee Overholt. The proper amounts of sulphur, nitrogen, charcoal and what not were compounded together and the paste had to be mixed like the lady beats a cake. Thomas McNeill had a mill to do this stirring and beating by water power, and to grind the mass into powder after it was dry. One day he had a big stirring of powder on a grinding and went home to dinner. Something went wrong: somehow a spark was generated, and the whole thing, mill and all, blew up.

Information: History of Pocahontas County - Price
and from old copies of the Pocahontas Times dated
August 13, 1931.

The first business of any kind established at Marlins Bottom (Marlinton) was a combined saw mill and carding mill built by James A. Price before the Civil War. It was located on the slough along the road leading to Campbelltown, just opposite the home of A. C. Pifer. It was run from water from Stony Creek. An effort to augment this power by water from Greenbrier River from an intake just below the mouth of Stony Creek failed, and the plant itself was washed away in the flood of 1877. This mill was in charge of a man by the name of James E. A. Gibbs, who was a man of the tenant class and who barely made a living for himself and a large family.

From the Pocahontas Times - 1923.

A few families, such as John R. Flemmens on Red Lick Mountain made hundreds of pounds of maple sugar every year. It was stirred until it pulverized and became as light as brown sugar. Much of it was taken to

Lewisburg and exchanged for kettles and household goods. Almost every family made enough sugar for their own use. After Mr. Flemmens death, Mrs. Flemmens and her daughter, Elizabeth, lived at Buckeye and earned a living by spinning and weaving.

West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce & Industry.

Date 5/31/41

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Source Mrs Mary Turner & Maggie Ruckman Date Filed
Millpoint, W. Va.

Mrs A.W McNeill & Georgie Loudermilk Buckeye, W. Va.

C.W Price and Carey Davis Marlinton.

A part from R.W Browns history of Greenbank District



And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

The pioneers of Pocahontas County went through with many hardships not only in clearing the land, into fertile fields, blazing trails, fighting the Indians and establishing and maintaining homes it fell on the shoulders of the housewife to furnish the necessary clothing and bedding for the entire family which was generally made of wool which was shorn often times by the wife washed, carded and spun by her into various kinds of clothing which was used by her family the socks and other clothing were made of wool spun on the old Spinning Wheel which was generally used in the winter months. From this wool socks, sweaters, blankets and other clothing and bedding was made almost entirely by hand and it was about this time that the Loom came into use by the pioneers of Pocahontas County way back in the first part of the eighteenth century.

During the eighteenth century and in the first part of the nineteenth Pocahontas County had many looms and many weavers as most of the women folk were taught to spin and weave at an early age.

Among some of the weavers brought to the attention of the writer was Fancy Patton of Millpoint who wove on a Loom in the middle of the eighteenth century she being a fancy weaver making mostly tablecloths and Counterpane some of which are held by the Wallaces at Millpoint. Her daughter Elizabeth Ruckman the wife of Wallace Ruckman was also a weaver and a spinner as she often stated she worked the wool on the wheel.

Commerce & Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

When finished it was put into a suit of clothes for her husband. She also wove for other people namely bedspreads and counterpanes and carpet her loom was bought from the late Mrs. Isaac McNeel of Millpoint in 1897 and she wove on it until 1918 just before her death.

Edith Allen
William H Gabbert was born in Greenbrier County 1840 the son of Stewart ~~and~~ Gabbert he being a frale young man his mother taught him to weave on the loom, when he was about 30 years of age they moved to Millpoint and located over the millrace in what was known as the loom house here he wove Coverlets, counterpanes, table linen, girthen carpet, jeans and lincy some of which his daughter Mary Turner is the proud owner some of the wool used by him was carded on the old Wellington T Hogsett carding machine at the lower mill at Millpoint, he later moved to Huntersville where he practiced his profession selling his ware to friends and neighbors locally, in his declining years he moved in with his daughter Mary Turner at Marvin Chapel above Millpoint where he continued to weave and did so up until his death in 1920. His work is in the hands of many people of Pocahontas County as he often went from house to house where-ever they had a loom his last loom was bought from Lura Waugh of near Jarry and now in the hands of Mrs. Turner.

Another weaver of mention was Lydia Beverage wife of Washington Beverage of near Buckeye on Dry Creek, her first loom was used before her by

Commerce & Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

Beverage made her a loom with which she wove for many people as she wove coverlets, blankets, carpet, and linen towels, she wove until about 1920 .

Hannah Cloonan wife of Timothy Cloonan was born 1813 was the daughter of George Kee who came from Ireland, she was taught to weave at an early age as she wove all the bed clothing, their dresses and in fact wove all the cloth that went to make their clothing, she wove for other people carpet 10cts a yard, lincy 10cts and flannel 15 cts a yard

Jonathan McNeill was a weaver and dyer he wove at what is the entrance to McClintic farms today, he made his own dyes as did the rest of the old weavers.

Very few people living today are able to weave but one exception is Georgie Loudermilk of near Buckeye who learned to weave when a young girl but has not wove for several years but she remembers most of the drafts as they were called the following are some of them and the one who copied and wove by them Virginia Fancy. by Mrs. Newton Duffield, The Rising Sun by Jane McNeill, The Double Rose Jane Adkison 1848. The Kings Flower. Petersburg Beauty by Mrs J A Moore. 1921. ^MAlbermarl Beauty by Jane McNeill 1846. The Golden Wheels & Diamonds. The Leaf & Square by Nancy Roake 1897. Four Wheels. The Blazing Star. Royal Beauty. by Georgie Loudermilk. 1912 The Pine Knot. Young Mans Fancy. Mountain Life by Maude Loudermilk (now Mrs. F. C

Commerce & Industry. Samuel G. Smith Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas County.
(pts) 1914). The Ginny Hen by Nancy Roakes. The Bow Knot. The Globe. The Seat Wo-
* by Jane McNeill. The True Lovers Knot came to this county in 1884 from Lost
Creek W. Va. All of these patterns were wove by our pioneer weavers and today
these drafts are cherished by Mrs A. W. McNeill of Buckeye as her mother Lydia
Severage wove from these same drafts years ago as well as the ones that made
the patterns and whose names are attached.

The following were weavers Georgie Loudermilk, Jane Adkison, Katie
Hannah, Susan Rogers, Elizabeth McNeill, Mary McNeill, Jane Kinnison, Catherine
Armstrong, Francis Cundiff, Mildred Kee, Elizabeth Buckley, and Malissa Fleming
all of the Swago Community. Nancy Syms, Angeline Gaylor and Catherine Under-
wood of Beaver Creek. and many others .

Carey Davis of Marlinton who has very poor eyesight learned the
weaving trade while at school this was about 1911 he wove carpet, rugs and
chair seats much of his ware is found in and near Marlinton but due to his
eyesight he stopped operating temporarily. Price Kessler of Greenbank who lost
his eyesight several years ago made brooms at his shop just above Greenbank
these brooms found a ready sale and were sold throughout the county and other
parts of the state.

Just after the revolutionary war the late Frederick Phillips who
was a wheel right installed a lathe made looms, spinning wheels, spools, spool fr-
--- handles were the Harvey livery barns on

Commerce & Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

and chairs,his looms and spinning wheels found ready sale all over Pocahontas County and especially the Greenbank community.

The loom and Spinning wheel era played a very important part in the development of Pocahontas County,as this was their sole way of getting clothing and bedding as there was very few stores and money was very scarce therefore it fell upon the shoulders of the mothers and daughters to supply these essential articles for the entire family .Some of these articles are cherished very dearly by the people of this county ,not only are they keepsakes of high value but you can see the quality of the product made in the many homes by hand by the wives of our forefathers that blazed the way that we today might have a more abundant life.

We might have looms in operation today but factory weaving is much faster,production larger as it would be almost impossible to supply the clothing needs of today by the wheel and the loom,nevertheless we have here in Pocahontas County today some few people using the spinning wheel and occasionally a loom in operation,but the latter used in making carpet more than anything else.
Information---Mrs Mary Turner & Maggie Ruckman Millpoint.W.Va.
Mrs.A.W McNeill & Georgie Loudermilk Buckeye.W.Va.
C.W Price & Carty Davis Marlinton.W.Va.
R.W Browns History of Greenbank District.(a part)

Juanita S. Diller
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Pocahontas County
Chapter 5
November 28, 1940

EARLY INDUSTRY-- LIVERY STABLES

For many years before the coming of the automobile, the livery stable business was an important pioneer industry. These were located at Marlinton, Durbin and Seebert. The first livery stable at Marlinton was built by James Henry G. Wilson, an Englishman who came to Marlinton in 1894 when the town was still very young. He was an honor graduate of Oxford, class of 1890. He had a thousand pound to invest, so he left England and sailed for America. He arrived in Pocahontas county in September, by spring wagon. The first horse he acquired was a kind of outlaw among horses, heavy on his feet and with a mean disposition. Wilson changed his name to Eaton. He built a livery barn about where Killingsworth's planing mill now stands. He had ten horses that he hired out to travelers. The charge was one horse, one day, one dollar. When he had become an expert with horses he acquired two the beautiful corral and the dog major. The trio were known and welcome far and wide.

This livery barn was succeeded by one just behind where the Seashore Memorial Hospital now stands. It was built by Jack Apperson and rented by Levi Gay and Anthony Kincaid. After a few years these barns were destroyed by fire and the last stables were the Harvey livery barns on

the location of Williams and Pifers Store. This one was run by W. A. McLaughlin. It was succeeded by a stable run for a year or two by Wilbur Clark and bought by Z. S. Smith, Sr. in 1906. It is said that Clark would shoe a horse while it ate and thus have it ready for the road by the time the rider had eaten his dinner. Z. S. Smith, Sr. operated this stable until the cars put it out of business in 1920. For a few years Smith had both horses and cars for hire. His charges were per day \$1.50 for a riding horse, horse and buggy \$2.50, and \$4.00 for a wagon, two horses and a driver. Some of those who drove for him were: Paul Stewart, John Malcomb, Willis Courtney, Tom Courtney and Ray Kellison. Part of this old stable still stands just behind the Smith Funeral Home.

There were other smaller stables for a year or two, but have been able to get no authentic information except that one stood about where the railroad now is just above the depot and the other where Howard McElvee's house now stands.

In 1889 there was built in the west end of Durbin a livery stable by Dave Hiner and Cam Daniels. They had ten to fifteen head of horses. It was later owned by J. Graves and H. Freeman and run by G. D. Kincaid with twenty horses. With these horses Mr. Kincaid moved both the Hosterman Lumber Co. and the lumber company to Cass, down the railroad grade before the steel was laid.

The stables were later moved to the east end of town and were owned by A. B. Kincaid. The charge was \$5.00 for a horse and carriage to Elkins, Monterey and points of like distance. This stable, too, went out of business with the coming of the automobile.

3

The stables at Seebert were owned by S. Gladwell with six or eight horses. The other one was owned by W. D. Clark. Neither of them were very profitable.

BLACKSMITHS AT MARLINTON

Samuel Gay was the first village blacksmith in the town of Marlinton. His shop was located where Will Stewart now lives. He was at one time Sheriff of the county, and was made postmaster in 1887.

The next blacksmith shop was about where The Peoples Store and Supply Co. now stands. It was first operated by Charles Z. Hevener, the big blacksmith from Mt. Grove. He lived in the Toll House, collected toll, kept postoffice, and blacksmithed for a living. Others who smithed in this shop were Clark Gum and Charles H. Dilley.

J. O. Hiner also had a shop at one time but it was later converted into a planing mill.

3 The only grist mill ever built in the vicinity of Stony Bottom was the old Adam Geiger mill built about the year 1890, and later sold to William Shinaberry. At the time of Geigers ownership he had a wide circle of customers, but soon after Shinaberry came into possession of the farm there were better roads and people took their grain to the bigger mills found elsewhere in the county. The water power arrangement, too, was not so good and grinding was more bother than a profit. The old mill still stands and part of the machinery is still there. *Ground both corn and flour.*

X Also about 1890, J. W. McClure of Indian Draft built a grist mill on his farm but it did not prove very profitable.

was soon abandoned. Used it only about six years.

John R. Johnson who lived in the Brush community where Cameron Beverage now owns was a cooper. That is a person who made wooden tubs, churns and barrels.

Dick Knapp was also a cooper.

RATE OF WAGES

One day when I was looking through an old court order book at the court house I noticed that from 1825 to 1833 men were paid for work on the public roads \$.50, for clerk of the poles \$2.00, days service in keeping poles \$1.00, while they were paid \$8.00 for a wolf scalp.

By 1834 the price for a wolf scalp had raised to \$10. while wages remained the same. By 1843 wages were still \$.50 and wolf scalps were \$12.00

OLD QUILT

The oldest dated quilt in America according to the Russell Sage Foundation is a quilt owned by Mrs. Lou M. Coyner of Clover Lick. It is dated 1795. It is of applique *design.* Mrs. Coyner has had it on exhibit three times in New York.

From--* Calvin Price

Tolbert Waugh

Luther McNeill

Marvin Carter

* A. L. Smith, Jr.

* Mrs. G. D. Hincaid

* William Shinnaberry

X J. W. McClure
Mrs. Coyner

OFFICE LETTER

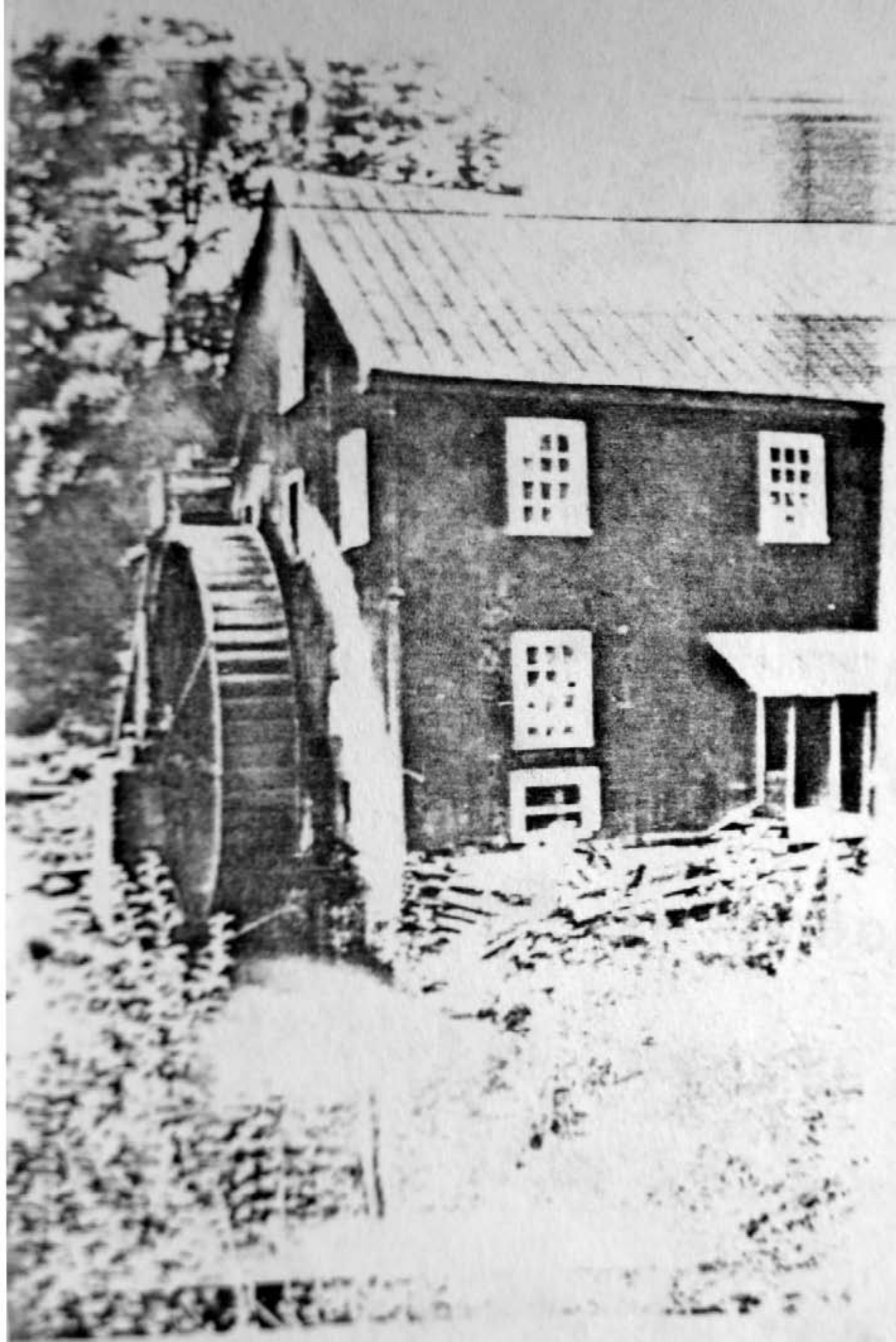
To	Bruce Crawford, State Director Office	Date	October 4, 1940
From	Juanita S. Dilley Office	Referring to	
Subject	Report for October 4, 1940	File	

Separate sheet for each subject. Omit all formalities. For office letters only.

I am repeating a little of the material sent in at other times, but in this I have traced the ownership of some of the old mill from their beginning to the present time. Use this report in connection with those sent in on June 12 and June 18. I have checked all of the material in this one with the deeds given, and all of the dates were taken from those deeds. There are still a few more that I hope to have completed by next week.

J.S.D.









Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

October 4, 1940

Chapter 5 Pioneer Industry

MILLS ---- BLACKSMITHS ---- TANNERS

The first mill ever built on Stony Creek was a small tub mill built by Henry Duncan in 1824. He served his apprenticeship in Virginia and came to Pocahontas as one of our first carpenters. He helped build the old Court House at Huntersville, the old brick Oak Grove Church and old Hamline Chapel log church. His tub mill was at the head of the Big Spring. He leased this land for a period of eight years and built thereon a mill. It ground corn and buckwheat. It is believed that he discontinued the mill at the end of his lease and that John Duffield built his mill about seventeen years later.

Court records show that John Duffield bought land on Stony Creek in 1839. No doubt he built the mill a short time after coming into possession of the land. This tract of land consisting of 380 acres was a part of 22,000 acres originally patented to Henry Philips assee of James Patent and was sold on August 6, 1839 by Jacob H. Arbogast, Commissioner of Delinquent Lands. John Duffield was the highest bidder.

This mill was an old log building. It ground both corn and wheat. It was run by an overshot, wooden water wheel.

On January 31, 1878 Jacob Waugh bought of John Duffield 78.75 acres on which was built a mill for the sum of \$600. And on February 20, 1895 the heirs of Jacob Waugh sold the "Duffield Mill Property" to Samuel D. Waugh for \$1800. On February 28, 1899 Samuel D. Waugh sold the property to Godfrey Geiger for \$1800.

and Bank
No. 13
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Book no. 28
 Godfrey Geiger owned and operated this mill until June 8, 1929 when he sold it to the present owner Tolbert Waugh. This mill has both corn and wheat burrs but Mr. Waugh does not use the wheat burrs.

The old log mill built by John Duffield was torn down and the present mill built by Jacob Waugh and sons in 1890.

Ms. 10-164
 Perhaps the next grist mill to be built on Stony Creek was one built by Nathan Barlow in 1850 which ground corn only. In connection with this mill was a carding machine. This mill stood just below where the fish hatchery now is. It was run by a wooden overshot water wheel. On May 7, 1872 Nathan Barlow sold this property to James Auldridge. Mr. Auldridge used this mill until 1890 when it was discontinued and some time later was torn down. The burrs were sold to a man by the name of Cassell and they were taken up on Leatherbark and put in a mill built by Cassell.

Book no. 10-167
 Wesley Barlow had a tan yard where the barn Hepsidam now stands. This is just above the fish hatchery and in sight of the Nathan Barlow mill. It is said that one time Mr. Barlow let the fire get out and he ran up over the hill calling, "Help I Dan", and since he did not speak plainly it sounded like he was saying "Heps I dam" and the place has been called Hepsidam ever since. He sold his tanyard to James Auldridge in 1872. This made Auldridge owner of a grist mill, a carding machine and a tanyard from 1872 until 1890. People still refer to it as the Jimmy Auldridge mill.

At the head of the Big Spring branch of Stony Creek was a grist mill and an up and down saw mill built by Isaac Moore sometime prior to the Civil war, perhaps this mill was built before the Barlow mill. During the summer and fall of 1861 Edray swarmed with soldiers on the march and in camp. Mr. Moore contracted camp fever then measles, from which he died Dec. 5, 1861. From that time until 1884 the mill was run by his son Taylor Moore. On March 1, 1884 Taylor Moore and Mary C. his wife deeded to George H. McLaughlin 24 acres on Stony Creek including the head of the Big Spring branch and a water grist mill and a saw mill for \$1800. This mill ground both corn and wheat. In connection with the mill the McLaughlins had a still which made peach and apple brandy.

In 1900 D. L. Barlow built a planing mill and a corn grist mill just about where the bridge now is. It was run by a turbine. This mill was discontinued in 1910.

The first saw mill on Stony Creek was an up and down mill built by William Cochran where Porter Sharp now lives. According to Hardesty's encyclopedia this was the first saw mill in Edray District. He also had a blacksmith shop and a tilt hammer.

The only mill now in operation on Stony Creek is the grist mill owned by Tolbert Vaughn. But there have been some larger saw mill that will be covered in chapter 7.

Mr. and Mrs. George Courtney of Buckeye were weavers by trade. It is said that they made a good living with the proceeds of the loom.

George White on Laurel Creek had an up and down saw mill.

John Tyler of Edray was a blacksmith. He made wagons and was a master of repairing machinery. The only man in Pocahontas county at that time who could put cogs in the masterwheel of the old horse power threshers.

Jake and John Simmons were shoemakers, and Buck Waugh on Greenbrier river was a shoemaker.

MILLS AT MILL POINT

These old mills built by the Cackleys have been mentioned in previous reports, but in this I am going to trace their ownership from the beginning to the present.

The lower mill which stands just over the bank below the state highway, was first built by Valentine Cackley, Sr. about 1800 and was one of the very first mills ever built in Pocahontas county. At the death of Valentine Cackley, Sr. the mill went into the hands of his heirs Valentine Cackley, Jr. and others. The mill was either rebuilt or repaired by them in the 1830's. In 1856 they sold the mill to Dr. Mathew Wallace. Dr. Wallace brought a man by the name of Roch from Monroe county to run the mill for him. Roch's descendants have continued to be millers and millwrights. Along with this mill property was also a carding machine a blacksmith shop and a tannery, all of the built by the Cackleys. James Smith was one of the tanners to work in this tannery during the ownership of Dr. Wallace. (see report for June 12, 1940 page 7)

In 1882 Dr. Wallace sold this property to Uriah Bird. Bird did not use the carding machine during his period of ownership. The old Cackley mill was torn down by Uriah Bird and the present mill erected on almost exactly the same site.

In 1892 Bird sold this mill property to Wellington T. Hogsett. He was a preacher therefore did not run the mill himself. Some of those who took care of the mill for him were: John Burgess, John Dotson, James Gabbert, Steel McClintic, O. E. Wilson, Henry Poage, and W. L. (Bud) Hogsett.

~~Joe~~ Dilley and a colored man by the name of George Lee were two of the blacksmiths who have worked in this shop.

This grist mill ground corn, wheat, buckwheat, and feed. "Bud" Hogsett was a good mechanic and during the time he run the mill he did some repair on it, putting it in excellent condition. He also bought new teeth for the carding machine and set it to running again. People say that this was the best carding machine ever built in the county and people for many miles brought their wool here to be carded. (Because of some dissatisfaction among the heirs, he quit the mill). For upon the Death of W. T. Hogsett the property went to his heirs of whom "Bud" Hogsett was one.

The Hogsett heirs still own this mill, but they say that it does not pay them to hire a miller to run it for them and for some reason the estate has never been settled. The mill has been idle for the past four years. The dam is now washed out but other than that the mill is in very good condition.

The upper mill was built by Joseph Cackley some time soon after the lower mill was built. There was also an up and

down saw mill on this location built either by the Cackleys or by Sampson L. Mathews. It went into the possession of Valentine Cackley and James Cackley and they sold it to Sampson L. Mathews in 1834. Mathews then moved from his home on Swago and spent the remainder of his life at Mill Point. Mary the only child of Sampson L. Mathews married William H. McClintic and came into possession of the mill and saw mill upon the death of her father in 1854. In 1865 William H. McClintic sold this property to Isaac McNeel. (see report for June 12. 1940 for the history of McNeel's mill) Isaac McNeel built the present mill just a short distance from the ^{site of the} old Cackley mill.

Hunter McClintic, son of William H. McClintic, built the old red mill on Swago. It was just below the site if the old Jonathan and Phebe McNeill mill. It ground both corn and flour, and was built sometime in the 1880's. It was called McClintic's Old Red Mill. Grose and Armentrout were the millwrites. This mill has been idle for a good many years, and was torn down a few years ago.

Beard Mill Property-----Locust Creek

The first mill on this property is believed to have been built by Josiah Beard, a pioneer, and seems to have been rebuilt, or a new mill built by his son Edwin Beard. I could find no date as to when the mill was built but in July 1893 Edwin L. Beard and Mollie his wife sold the "Beard Mill Property" to W. H. Overholt. In 1897 L. J. Williams was appointed Special Commissioner to sell the land as decreed by the June term of court in the suit of L. J. Williams and J. C. Patterson, trustees, vs W. H. Overholt

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and others. A. F. Mathews became the purchaser for \$2900 for lien upon land. Said Mathews signified to have the deed made to R. W. Hill and E. L. Beard. 25 acres including a Grist mill and Water power known as the Beard Mill Property. The deed was given March 5, 1901. In 1905 there was another suit of chancery over this property, and in 1907 it was sold to Charles S. Donnally. Donnally owned the mill until in 1911 when he sold to J. F. Gabbert. Gabbert later sold it to Bertie Hiner and husband, T. H. Hiner. In 1922 there was another suit of chancery and on November 13, 1925 L. M. McClintic, Special Commissioner, Bertie Hiner and T. H. Hiner deeded it to James W. H. Poage who on March 17, 1925 sold it to W. W. McCoy, and on December 30, 1931 it was bought by Sidney McCoy the present owner. I think one would be perfectly safe in saying that this mill has the distinction of having changed hands more times than any other mill in all Pocahontas County.

Dilleys Mill---Thorny Creek

* Dilleys Mill was first built by Henry Dilley, the pioneer, and in 1843 was deeded to his son John Dilley along with all of his lands on Thorny Creek, for support of he and his wife in their old age. John Dilley was a mechanic of remarkable skill to be a self trained workman. He was honest and industrious, and it is believed by his friends that he sacrificed his health to his useful calling through exposure. William H. Dilley another son was for many years the village blacksmith at Huntersville. John Dilley seems to have had but one child Frances wife of Lieut. Henry Moffett Poage who was killed during the Civil War. Mrs. Poage had died some time previously. As near as I can trace the ownership

Inventory of Materials

Subject: Subsistence
Topic: Old Mill W.Va.

Mill Point
Title: Old mill on bank of Stamping Creek

Author: Postmaster of Mill Point
Reply to letter Date submitted: Nov 23, 1937 Length: _____ words.
Status:

Contents:
Built about 1868 is still operating.

Source:

Consultant:

Reliability:

File: _____

Folder: _____

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
OF WEST VIRGINIA

J. N. ALDERSON
ADMINISTRATOR

312 Smallridge Building,
Charleston, W. Va.

November 18, 1937.

Postmaster of Mill Point,
West Virginia.

Dear Sir:

A few facts connected with the history of the old
overshot water mill just west of the highway on the bank of
Stamping Creek are needed by the Federal Writers' Project for
the completion of the Mill Point story. I shall be greatly
obliged if you will supply the answers to the following
questions:

A Carpenter by the name of Reed built the mill.
By whom was it built? *Mr. Isaac McNeil was the owner & had it built.*
When was it built? *About 1868 or later part of 60's.*
Is it now in operation? *Yes.*
If not, when was it abandoned?

Thanking you for your kind cooperation, I am,

Very truly yours,

John L. Stender
John L. Stender,
State Director
Federal Writers' Project.

JLS:ew

H. H. Auldridge.
Postmaster of Mill Point.

86-67
2798

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Redhant
Subject Commerce & Industry

Date 6/6/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

Date Research Taken 6/4,5,6/41

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Date Typed 6/6/41

Source C.W Price & J.O Morrison
Marlinton, W.Va.

Date Filed _____

W.Va. Geological Survey by Paul Price.



Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

Water-Power and present development.

At the present time little or no utilization is being made of the many streams of Pocahontas County in the way of making electricity, save for a turbine installed near the mouth of Clover Creek by the Coyners of Clover Lick to operate an electric generator. Probably the greatest use to which the streams are put, and even this is infrequent and of small consequence is to propel overshot water-wheels to grind flour and feed, in the latter way there remains five mills but only four that operate throughout the year. These mills are as follows on Stony Creek use to be known as the Geiger mill but now run by the present owner Tolbert Waugh. The McNeel mill at Millpoint owned by Dr. H. W. McNeel and run by different millers, the Locust Creek Mill owned by Wallace McCoy and run by his son Sidney but only grinds corn. The Hogsett mill or better known as the lower mill at Millpoint was run for years by the late T. W. Hogsett both mills at Millpoint ground both corn and wheat but since the death of Mr Hogsett this mill has been run very little and then only corn was ground but in connection with this mill was a carding machine run by the same power but it has ceased to run on account of the water- power, in the race, due to floods in recent years. The Heavener mill on North Fork above Arbovale is owned by the Orndorffs and still grinds wheat, corn, buckwheat and feed, these mills have played a very important part in the development of Pocahontas County, along with some that have ceased to run and

Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
been torn down namely the Isaac Smith mill on Greenbrier River at mouth of
Stevens Hole Run, The McClintic mill at the entrance of McClintic Farm, the
Hill mill beyond Jacox and many other small corn mills, were run by water-
power from small streams and waterfalls throughout the county, and many were
the grists of corn ground on these mills that came from what is known as new
ground when our forests were cleared into fertile fields that we till today.

Streams available for water- power development are Greenbrier River
that carries the greater part of Pocahontas County's rainfall, it is made up of
two forks the West Fork coming from the east of Shavers Mountain near Wildell
with an elevation of 3,625 feet, the East Fork heads at Blister Swamp on the
western slope of Allegheny Mountain with an elevation of 3,875 they come tog-
ether at Durbin and make the Greenbrier River proper and it continues its sou-
thwest journey through the county, through Greenbrier County and enters New
River at Bellepoint just below Hinton where the elevation is 1,375 or a drop
of about 2,500 feet making this a stream with plenty of power undeveloped. It
drains an area of about 687.06 square miles in Pocahontas County with a never
failing supply of water. Locust Creek undeveloped save for one grist mill, it is
a tributary of Greenbrier River. Hills Creek which heads high up on Kennison
Mountain flows south to form the Falls of Hills Creek which are very beauti-
ful this stream has a steady flow of sparkling mountain water. Bruffeys Creek
whose source is on the side of Viney Mountain winds its way down the narrow

Commerce And Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro W.Va. Pocahontas Co.

valley and sinks southeast of Lobelia. Stamping Creek whose source is Cranberry Mountain sinks up the creek and rises just above Millpoint where it now runs overshot wheels that grind feed and flour, its rate of fall is 251.5 feet per mile. Milling has been done here since the early 80s. The Blue Spring feeds the main creek while a spring coming out of the Gillan Mountain furnishes water for the race that runs the McNeel mill. Swago Creek with considerable volume is fed largely by springs namely McClintic Run, Overholt Run, Dry Creek, Cave Creek and Bucks Run this stream has considerable fall capable of running an electric generator or over shot wheels. Knapps Creek a tributary of Greenbrier River with the largest flow of water of any entering the Greenbrier has a fall of 58.2 feet per mile. Stony Creek has a fall of 196.9 feet per mile and on this stream we find the Waugh mill. Cloverlick Creek whose source is Gay Knob and Cloverlick Mountain has a fall of 161.2 feet per mile, near the mouth of this stream is a small turbine that operates an electric generator. Sittlington Creek its source high up on Allegheny Mountain has a fall of 136.5 feet per mile. Deer Creek the second largest tributary of the Greenbrier in Pocahontas County heads in Frank Mountain, flows near Greenbank and Arbovale and on to the river but before getting to the Greenbrier it has cut a beautiful ox bow gorge, this stream could be easily harnessed and put to work supplying electricity to the entire Greenbank District. Cranberry River heads on Cranberry and Black Mountain

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with a rapid fall from its source to the Glades and from there on follows a very slow sluggish course,a dam could be constructed near the head forming a large basin of several hundred acres a water supply that could furnish electricity to the entire Little Levels District.Williams River heads on the west side of Day and Swago Mountain,this is another of Pocahontas Countys streams that can be harnessed and put to work but ~~like~~ it like many of our other streams lays back in almost a wilderness and due to lack of roads has not been opened up and should have a great future in store.

Many of Pocahontas County streams furnished power for the pioneer to grind corn,run Tilt-Hammers and our old Up & Down saw mills .

Mills run by electricity is the Marlinton mill ,run by gas engines the Dunmore Mill and the Hillsboro mill the rest are run by water power. George Williams of near Lobelia has erected a small corn mill that serves Lobelia and surrounding terretory,John P Sharp also has a small corn mill up in what is known as the brush country.

The water-power development in Pocahontas County is in its infancy but where ever it has been developed this particular section has grown and today we find where milling is done the population is larger,stores and post-offices have come in until they are community centers.

Information-C.W Price Marlinton.W.Va.J.O Morrison Marlinton W.Va.

W.Va. Geological Survey by Paul Price.

-8-

A circular postmark from New York, NY, dated MAY 1941. The text "NEW YORK, NY." is at the top, "MAY 1941" is in the center, and "RECEIVED" is at the bottom. A small heart symbol is positioned below the date. The numbers 1 through 29 are arranged in a circle around the central text.

Railroad

Editor Calvin W. Princes recent sound off on the radio from New York brings a letter from Mr. Robert Earle of Marion, Kansas, with reminiscences of the building of the Greenbrier Railway in 1899. He was a foreman with the J. V. Strang Company the first contractor who arrived in September, 1899; pitched their camp of nine army tents salvaged from the recent Spanish American war, and began operations a mile below Marlinton at the Kee Place on Still House Run (now Stillwell), running into a lot of rattle snakes and copper-heads the first day in the jungles.

There was a fine outfit of big Missouri mules and draft horses to operate the plows and scrapers. This being before the days of steam shovels, and the crew was mainly colored men recruited for the duration of the job in North Carolina and Virginia, who were held in a sort of benevolent subjection until such time as it pleased the management to let them settle with the quartermaster and return whence they came. Incidentally, the bosses and many of the laborers carried guns. (Note- I have always heard it said that men were often shot, but they were just buried and no questions asked.)

Mr. Earle says that so far as he is aware he is the only one now living of Strangs' foremen and bosses, and he is living in retirement from construction work. All of the others seem to have met with some more or less violent ends.

Strang was killed in a runaway accident in New Jersey;

Nels Engstrom died in a straight jacket in Cleveland; Dan Foley died in Kansas City; Bob Vanstan was last heard of in Pittsburg in 1920; Mike Golden dropped his gun on the floor down in Oklahoma and it went off and killed him. Mike Calvin was killed in the Philippines. These men are remembered by the older inhabitants hereabouts who worked on the building of the railroad.

The editors brother, who was at that time working on the paper, is a witness to the snake killing referred to by Mr. Earle, and dissected out one of the big ones for his museum of natural history."

N. R. P.

from---Pocahontas Times, Feb. 8, 1940

by Norman R. Price

West Virginia Writers' Project
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* West virginia geological survey-Pocahontas County

Court records

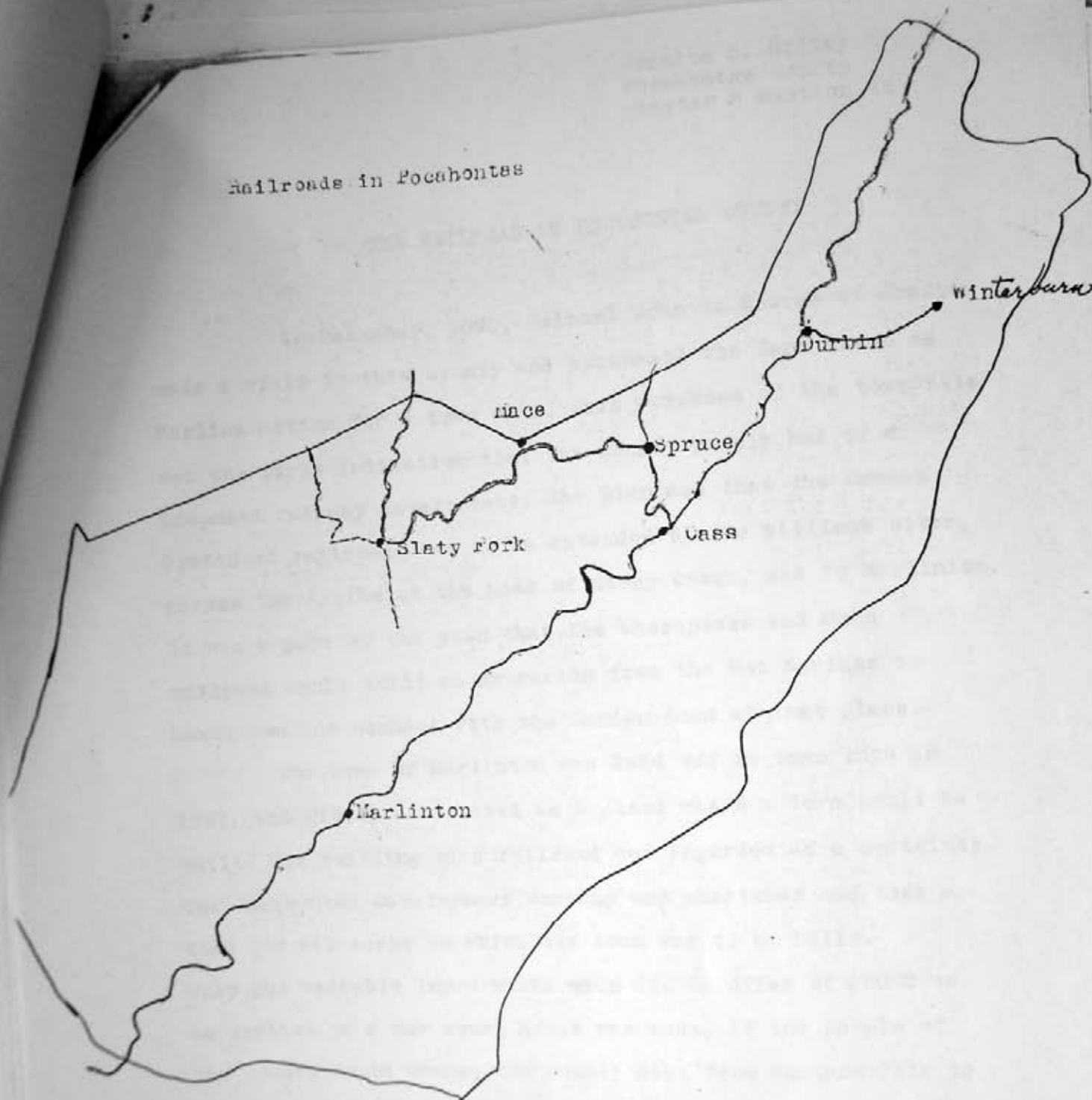
Pocahontas times--1918

Mrs. P. F. Endes, Durbin, W. Va.

** History of Pocahontas--W. T. Price



Railroads in Pocahontas



- Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad
- Western Maryland Railroad
- West Virginia Lumber and Paper Co. Railroad

THE RAILROAD IN POCAHONTAS COUNTY

** In December, 1890, Colonel John T. McGraw of Grafton made a visit to this county and purchased the farm known as Marlins bottom for a town site. This purchase of the town site was the first intimation that the county people had of a proposed railway development. The plan was that the Camden System of railroads was to be extended up the Williams River, across the divide at the head of Stony Creek, and to Marlinton. It was a part of the plan that the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad would build an extension from the Hot Springs to Marlinton and connect with the Camden Road at that place.

The town of Marlinton was laid off in town lots in 1891, and widely advertised as a place where a town could be built. The building of a railroad was regarded as a certainty. The Pocahontas Development Company was chartered and took a deed for 640 acres on which the town was to be built. They put valuable improvements on it. An offer of \$5000 to be applied on a new court house was made, if the people of the county would change the county seat from Huntersville to Marlinton. The election held in the fall of 1891 gave the county seat to Marlinton, which at that time had a population of one hundred people.

The railroad was not built at that time because of a money panic which came to the county. Colonel McGraw who had invested largely in lands at Durbin and elsewhere in the county never ceased to try to interest capitalists in this county and to try to develop it with a railroad.

his attention was called to the natural grade for a railroad up Greenbrier River, so he had a survey made from Roncevert to Marlinton at a cost of \$10,000. and it was on this location that the railroad was afterwards built.

The Greenbrier Division of the Chesapeake and Ohio railway was begun in 1899. It is a branch of the main line at Whitcomb, Greenbrier County, and extends northward across this county into Pocahontas county, following the Greenbrier River to its northern termination at Winterburn Station (Thornwood P. O.) At Durbin it connects with the Western Maryland Railway. It was completed to Marlinton in 1900. The arrival of the first train to that place in that same year was made a public ceremony. Some thousands gathered here and barbecued beef and had a celebration. That night when they returned to Roncevert, they told that when the train got to Marlinton that the great crowd gathered around the locomotive and that ^{when} the engineer requested them to give him room to turn around they cleared a space of some acres. This of course was only a localized anecdote.

" The track was completed to Cass in 1901, to Durbin in 1902, and to Winterburn in 1905. The completion of this railroad marked a new era in the prosperity of Pocahontas county, and has continued to be one of the most valuable assets in the county.

In reply to an inquiry regarding its construction, first operation, and track mileage, the late G. B. Wall, Vice-President, supplied the following summary:

"The construction of the branch began in June, 1899, and was completed in June, 1906. The date of the first operation of trains over the Greenbrier Branch in Pocahontas county was in 1900. The mileage of this branch in Pocahontas county, W. Va. is, main line, 65.5 miles, with 12.73 miles of sidings."

In 1905 from a report by the Secretary of State on the assessed valuation of railroad property in West Virginia the Greenbrier Branch of the C. and O. Railroad in Pocahontas county was given as follows: Pocahontas county- 62.95 miles main line at a value of \$3,630. per mile, making a total value of main line of \$228,508.50. Length of siding-- 9.37 miles at a value of \$1,650. per mile. Total of sidings \$15,460.50. total value of tools and machinery, \$440.00 value of buildings and real estate \$4,620.00 telegraph line-- 64 miles at a total value of \$2,240.00 grand total of all taxable property--\$320,514.00

in five years, 1900 to 1905, Pocahontas County changed from being one of the few counties in the state without a railroad to the county having the greatest railroad mileage in the state. the county began to develop at once. from 1900 to 1910 Pocahontas had an increase in population of 72% which was largely due to the construction of the railroad. "umber towns sprang up all along the route and booming days for the county began. Marlinton changed from a town of 171 people to one with 1,045 by 1910 and to 1,117 in 1920. the Greenbrier Tannery of the Union Tanning Company of New York was built at Marlinton in 1901, and employed around 150 men. the Pocahontas Tannery at Frank was built soon after the completion of the railroad to that place. the farmers now had a way to get their cattle, sheep, poultry and other farm products to market without driving the overland to another state. it was no longer necessary to go to Millboro and other railroad centers out of the county and haul in goods by wagon train. Since there were four passenger trains per day up and down the Greenbrier River much of the travel to and from Marlinton the county seat and other points on the railroad was by train until the coming of the automobile and good roads made it more convenient to travel by automobile.

At the present there is the one passenger ^{Train} up from Noncevert in the forenoon and back down in the afternoon. it has a gasoline engine instead of steam. The freight goes up one day and back down the next.

The stations and postoffices are as follows:
 Entering Pocahontas on Droop Mountain 34.8 miles from Noncevert,
 the first stop is
 Beard----- 41.3 miles from Noncevert
 Seebert----- 48.6 " " "

Watoga----- 50.9 miles from Noncevert

Buckeye----- 55.0 " " "

Marlinton----- 58.9 " " "

Clover Lick-----75.9 " " "

Sitlington-----79.7 " " "

Cass----- 83.5 " " "

Hosterman----- 90.9 " " "

Boyer (Nottingham P.O.)

Durbin-----98.4 " " "

Bartow----- 100.9 " " "

Winterburn(Thornwood P. O.) 103.7 miles from Noncevert

Other post offices in the county but situated on star or rural free delivery routes are:

Boyer, Burr, Edray, Frost,

Green Bank, Hillsboro, Jacox, Huntersville,

Linwood, Lobelia, Mace, Mill Point,

Onoto, Slaty Fork, Spice, Minnehaha Springs,

Woodrow.

Railroads

Western Maryland Railroad--Spruce Branch

this branch of the railroad was built by the Greenbrier, Cheat and Elk Railroad Company in 1911. Their Certificate of Incorporation as found in Deed Book 46 page 288 is as follows.

" September 27, 1910. The railroad which this corporation proposes to build will commence at or near Bemis in Randolph ~~in~~ county on the Shavers Fork of Cheat River thence by the most practicable route by way of the Valley of Shavers Fork of Cheat River into Pocahontas County to the waters of Big Spring Branch of Elk River and by way of the valley of Elk to some point near Webster Springs in Webster County; with a branch up the Old field Fork of Elk River to some point on the Marlinton and Camden Railroad in Pocahontas; with a branch line from that point at or near the mouth of Slaty Fork and up Slaty Fork Creek to a point on the C and O Railroad at Clover Lick; and with a branch line from some point at or near the mouth of Valley Fork of Elk River in Randolph county. The principal business office to be at Cass.

The capital stock was \$50,000 divided into shares of \$100. each. The shareholders were:

S. E. Slaymaker-----	New York City-----	10 shares
Henry L. Condit-----	"-----	10 shares
John C. Luke-----	New York City-----	10 shares
George H. Perkins--	New York City-----	10 shares
George S. Nelson----	New York City-----	10 shares

WESTERN MARYLAND RAILROAD in POCAHONTAS

Durbin Branch

* " The Durbin branch of the Western Maryland Railway extends from Elkins in Randolph County, to Durbin and there connects with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad-Greenbrier Division. According to J. W. Broome, Superintendent, this branch was completed by the Coal and Iron Railway Company on August 1, 1903, and was purchased by the present owners on November 1, 1905. In Pocahontas County there are 17.62 miles of main track with 2.01 miles of sidings."

Spruce Branch

* " During 1928 the Western Maryland Railway Company purchased that portion of the Greenbrier, Cheat and Elk railroad beginning at Cheat Junction in Randolph County, and extending south along Shavers Fork to Spruce, where it turns west, crossing through the mountain passes between the headwaters of Tygart, Cheat and Elk Rivers, and then down Big Spring fork of Elk River to the village of Slaty Fork. From this point it extends northwestward down main Elk River, and passes into Randolph County at the mouth of Douglas Fork. This railroad is entirely of standard gauge, the principal function of which in previous years was a log carrier for the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company. This railroad will provide a general freight and passenger service in this territory, which also includes extensive coal deposits of eastern Webster, southern Randolph and northwestern Pocahontas Counties."

from--" Va. Geological Survey- Paul Price-1929

Durbin Branch

When the coal and iron railroad reached what is now West Durbin and the Chesapeake and Ohio what is now Durbin, both had their surveys through what is called the Narrows just above Durbin. Both roads were anxious to lay steel through the gap, but the C. and O. rushed a crew in one Saturday night in October 1902. Sunday saw intense activities and when evening came a flat car loaded with ties stood at the end of the steel. That is where the switch is located going into the Pocahontas Tanning Company siding at Frank, so the C and O got ahead of the coal and iron. They later extended their line to Winterburn. Both companies had been anxious to build into this section so as to open up the vast timber sections.

The Durbin branch of the Western Maryland Railroad of 17.62 miles extending from Durbin to the divide into Randolph County extended through one of the richest timber sections of the county. Lumber Companies came into this section as soon as the railroad was completed and the lumber towns of Wildell, Vertrude, May, Braucher, Madeline, Olive and Burner sprang up and flourished for about fifteen years. The land rose in value until it was worth something like \$5,000,000 for the timber alone, and now that the timber has been cut it is held at something like \$5.00 an acre for grazing. The Coal and Iron, what a vision of wealth and prosperity that name once conjured. But now the land has been stripped of its timber and the region now looks stern and wild and naked. At least seven post offices were allowed to lapse ^(July 7th 1903) and all of the churches were discontinued, and only one school, the Wildell school, was retained. Most of the land is now a part of the Monongahela National Forest.

West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company
Lumber Railroad--Pocahontas County

* "Certain portions of what was formerly the Greenbrier, Cheat and Elk Railroad was not included in the Western Maryland purchase and are now operated by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company. This includes a branch from Slaty Fork extending around the eastern side of Gauley Mountain and entering Randolph County near the northern prong of Big Run, and another branch from Spruce southeastward across Back Allegheny Mountain, through a mountain pass 3,940 feet above sea level, down Leatherbark Run, to Cass where it connects with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. According to Charles W. Luke, Manager of the Company's operations at Cass, the branch extending from Slaty Fork to Randolph County on Gauley Mountain will be taken up after the timber has been removed from that area, but the branch connecting the Chesapeake and Ohio at Cass with the Western Maryland at Spruce will in the future be operated by the Lumber Company as a private railroad."

* From West Va. Geological Survey-P. Price
1929

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Addie B Graham. " "
J.O Morrison. Marlinton. "
Rella F Yeager. Hillsboro. "



COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. SAMUEL G SMITH HILLSBORO. W. VA. POCAHONTAS CO.

Pocahontas County has several chain and company stores, the West Virginia Pulp And Paper Company at Cass, have a large general store that was established about 1900, Durbin Mercantile at Durbin and Bartow Supply at Bartow all company stores. At Marlinton you find an A. & P store and one owned by C. J Casdorf of Ronceverte who has a chain of stores besides the one in Marlinton they have one at Hillsboro competing with home owned stores owned by R. D Moore proprietor of Hillsboro Cut Price Store, formerly owned by M. L Isbell. And another general store owned by W. T Walker, these stores all handle country produce, that represents the surplus of what the farmers produce in Pocahontas County.

Hillsboro has one hotel operated by R. W Rogers which has a splendid trade as many motorists prefer a small town to the larger one on account of noise, J. W Siple and W. C McClune operated hotels in Hillsboro until a few years back when Siples was destroyed by fire and McClunes closed due to advanced age and sickness in the family.

At Durbin you find Hotel Wilmoth, at Marlinton, Hotel Marlin, Sewel Statons Hotel, Clarke Home Hotel, Grimes Hotel that was formerly known as Stager Hotel. Pocahontas County has many tourist homes at Hillsboro you find one operated by Mrs. H. W Beard, At Millpoint Cliffside Tourists, at the Wallaces and operated by Cora Cloonan, at Marlinton we find two one by Mrs. Jack Richardson

41 Commerce & Industry. S.G.S Pocahontas Co.

her operated by Mrs. S.J. Rexrode, and many more throughout the county
the care of the traveling trade during the summer months. In the early days
when we had the horse drawn vehicles, and all stock were driven to market many
farmers that had large houses accommodated the traveling public and one of the
stopping places worthy of notice was at the farm home of the late Joseph Smith
above Millpoint, who took care of many people and their horses and was known
as the home of Love, Hospitality and prayer by the traveling public. This was
in the days of the livery stable and hack, at Hillsboro, T.F. Smith had a
hack route from Hillsboro to Seebert. At Marlinton was a livery stable with
saddle horses and buggy horses which were hired out for trips all over the

county the first was operated by an Englishman by the name of Wilson his stable-
man was Tom Courtney, and from information available he was followed by
Anthony Kincaid about 1900 his drivers were his sons Jack and Rex following
Kincaid, came the Marlinton Feed and Livery Co. In which were the following men
Sawyers, Dillion, and our own native son the late W.A. McLaughlin of Marlinton.
Z. S. Smith Sr. run a livery stable until the days of the automobile which was
about 1910. The late John D. Gay and Walter Mann operated a feed store and liv-
ery barn for a time. Not long after the automobile was introduced in the
county the livery stable along with the horses passed out of the picture, the
car has been the means of transportation for about 30 years but the aeroplane is
gaining popularity and about 1935 ground was obtained from D.W. Williams on the

Commerce & Industry. S.G.S. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

ation of the county, and at one time 80% or more of the homes of the County had a telephone but when the depression came along about 1931 many of them were taken out or cut off and at the present time most of the phones are found in the towns as many rural communities are without telephone service altogether or only one or two where there use to be from 30 to 40, but due to the small income of the farmers they were forced to discontinue the service that they so greatly needed, especially in cases of emergencies.

The two power lines that serve Pocahontas County The West Penn serves the upper half of the county while The Virginia Public Service serves the lower portion of the county, this has meant much to the county not only for lights but the many machines that it runs taking the drudgery out of much of the work regularly performed by members of the households, this has caused many electrical appliances to be sold most of which are sold by C.J. Richardsons hardware especially washing machines. Radios are found in most of the homes these are serviced by Ralph Dilley and Robert Patterson of Marlinton, with their radio shops

So be it said that electricity has meant much to the growth of the county besides the comfort and enjoyment that it brings.

Information-A.W. McNeill & Addie B. Graham Buckeye. W. Va.

J.O. Morrison. Marlinton. W. Va.

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Pocahontas Times 5/15/41

Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

Pocahontas County has most of our native trees and each year some of these are shipped to different parts of the state by many of the farmers living in the region where these small trees are growing and each year these farmers add to their income by digging and shipping small trees and other shrubbery namely Spruce, Hemlock, White Pine, White & Black Walnut, Quaking Asp, Beech Birch, Ironwood, Elm, Mountain Magnolia, Yellow Poplar, Sassafras, Sycamore, Crab Apple, Mountain Ash, Wild Cherry, Yellow Locust, Sumac, Striped Maple, Sugar Maple Dogwood, Mountain Holly, Red Bud, Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel these are shipped over the entire state for resetting in many of our larger towns and cities of W. Va. The income derived from these trees amounts to several thousand dollars each year.

Each year thousands of dollars of Laurel is dug in Pocahontas County part of this is bought by Frank Labarr of Strausburg, Pa. who has a nursery at White Sulphur Springs, it is dug by local labor and trucked to the nursery and set out and from the nursery it is dug and reshipped to many parts of the U S but especially to New York City and other large cities of the east where it is bought by the rich people to be planted in their lawns and with other plants and trees that make up their shrubbery. Much Laurel is bought by tourists passing through therefore the income derived from the sale of Rhododendron in Pocahontas County is great. As it is our state flower Pocahontas County is proud

Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
to be able to supply it to the rest of the state where laurel does not grow.
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Pocahontas County ranks high in the production of evergreens and each year many of these are cut at Christmas time and trucked to the towns and cities of W. Va. and sold as Christmas trees of these the Spruce is the most desirable, they are found on high elevation especially on Cheat Mt. Spruce Knob, Black Mt. and many other sections of high altitude mostly found on the Northwestern part of the county, many of our little Spruce find their way to Charleston about Christmas time.

Pocahontas is noted for its wildflowers coming early in the spring and staying until late in the fall many of these are dug each year and sold to wildflower lovers over the state. Many of the rich woodlands of Pocahontas grow Ginseng and Golden Seal these two plants in years gone by were the means of living for many of our mountain people as thousands of dollars worth of these roots were dug each year in the wilds besides the tame and cultivated patches that were found scattered over the county the ginseng is mostly sent to SHINA where it is said it is made into medicine. Other plants and roots are gathered each year and shipped to herb plants that use them in making medicine, H. C Cole now located at Allentown and formerly of Watoga W. Va. was an herb doctor that used many of our plants of Pocahontas County medicine.

Many mountainous sections of Pocahontas County produce ramps, a plant

Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
very much like an onion, each spring these are dug and sold to the people of
near towns also to people from sections that do not produce them, they are con-
sidered a delicacy by many people and each spring many so called Ramp reunions
are held throughout the county and state.

Much fruit is produced in Pocahontas County C. J Richardson owns what
is known as the fruit farm which is located near the Greenbrier River above
Marlinton, this orchard consists of from 40 to 50 acres of trees and each year
this fruit is picked and sold locally in and around Marlinton another orchard
of size is found on the McClintic Farm on Swago Creek near Buckeye the acreage
in trees is from 35 to 40 acres the fruit is sold locally.

Pocahontas County produces Cranberries on Cranberry River this section
located in the western part of Pocahontas was once known as the Wilderness or
Wilds of Pocahontas this glade is cut up into smaller ones namely the big glade
Flag Glade, Long Glade, Round Glade and Little Glade with a total acreage of 100
acres but truly this is just one big glade containing from 250 to 300 acres of deep
wet soil overgrown in some places with a thicket of shrubbery and others carp-
peted with moss. There is perhaps no area of equal extent in W. Va. which is of gr-
ater importance for its influence on water flow nor one more interesting to the
student and collector on account of its varied forms of plant and animal life
than this glady region laying at an elevation of ~~XX~~ 3,400 above sea level at
the head of Cranberry River, each fall these Cranberries are gathered by people

Commerce & Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.
from different sections of Pocahontas County as well as by some from outside of it, some are sold and when put away in the moss from the glades will keep a considerable length of time this section was once in one of our dense and undisturbed forests but was cut over by Wern Lumber Co. and since been bought by the state and put into a national forest and game reserve as this section has much game as well as trout fishing streams save for the timber the resources of this section are undeveloped and with the Marlinton, Millport to Richwood road that has been and is being built by the federal government by federal prisoners it is hoped this section of Pocahontas will be opened up in the near future and its resources developed.

Pocahontas County has many fish streams the larger streams having both large and small mouth bass and Pike while the smaller streams have both Brook and Rainbow Trout along with the Brown Trout in some streams to keep these streams stocked a Fish Hatchery was built between Edray and Onoto just below the old McLaughlin Spring and here thousands of trout and other fish are hatched and fed to a certain size then they are distributed throughout this section of the state in our local streams, because of its fine fishing streams and good fishing many of the outdoor and sporting class visit Pocahontas each year.

Our rugged mountains, covered with a great variety of trees, shrubs and flowering plants, combined with swift, pure mountain streams, scores of large

Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
Volume springs and numerous fairyland caverns affords us scenic grandeur
unsurpassed and should be recognized as another of our most important nat-
ural resources.

If these resources are wisely developed and wisely utilized which
incidentally is true conservation, the people of Pocahontas County will have
a bright and prosperous future.

Information. Calvin W Price Marlinton. W. Va.

W. Va. Geological Survey. By Paul Price.

A. W McNeill Buckeye. W. Va.

Pocahontas Times. May 15/41

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History of Pocahontas Co. by William T Price.

Hardestys History and Encyclopedia.



NOTE
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The first county court of Pocahontas County convened March 1822 at the house of John Bradshaw those qualifying were John Jordan, William Poag, James Tallman, Robert Gay, George Poag~~X~~, Benjamin Tallman, John Baxter and George Burner a little later on John Jordan became the first sheriff of the county under a \$30,000.00 bond with Abraham and Isaac McNeel as his bondsmen, Josiah Beard was appointed clerk of the court his work speaks for itself and Sampson L Mathews was recommended and appointed as surveyor of lands, William Hugh~~X~~s was appointed constable of Little Levels and James Cooper was appointed constable for the upper end of the county now Greenbank District. Travis W Perkins opened up a house of entertainment thus he became the first hotel proprietor in Pocahontas County.

The first term of court convened on May 7, 1822 and the first grand jury that ever sat in a body for Pocahontas County were the following persons Samuel Daugherty, foreman, John Mooney, George Key, John Johnston, Joseph Freed, James Grimes, James Bridger, Samuel Waugh, Henry Herold, James Lewis, John Grimes, Morris Hughes, William Blair, Andrew D Edmiston, Samuel Hogset, James McNeel, William McNeel, John Moore, Lanty Lockridge, Jonathan Griffin, and Abraham Seabord, these fine old gentlemen paved the way for our present court.

Pocahontas County was named for the daughter of a Powhatan, her real name was Matoaka, she was born about the year 1595, about 1612 she was visiting

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chief of the Potomac Indians, and it was at this time she was enticed her on board a boat and she was taken away by captain Agall and so she met and married John Rolfe.

The first man to carry a compass in the Greenbrier valley was John Lewis, and the first settler in Little Levels was Col. John McNeel who came to this country thinking he had killed a man in the Maryland-Virginia section but after locating in Little Levels and erecting a cabin and out hunting he came upon Charles and James Kinnison from where the fight took place and informed him the man had not died and in fact not seriously wounded, this was great relief for him and he began to open up the vast wilderness that later became the garden spot of Pocahontas County, these men and their wives were buried in the McNeel cemetery just north of Hillsboro.

X Huntersville the county seat for many years was laid out in 1821 and shortly boasted of two general mercantile stores, the county buildings, a hotel a postoffice and one news paper the Pocahontas Times all of which were moved to Marlinton which became the county seat in later years.

The first settlers in Edray District was Marlin and Sewell who erected a cabin near the present site of Greenbrier Bridge in 1749 this location grew until today we find a town of near 1,600 population.

In the early days grain was threshed both by the flail and by the riding of one horse and the leading of one or more that were freshly shod

and in this way the grain was separated from the straw this was known as "tramping out," all the grain was threshed in this manner until 1839 when a machine was introduced in this county by William Gibson of Huntersville, W.Va. This machine was known as the "cheff piler" this machine was operated by Jesse Whitmer and John Galford late of Millpoint, the Greenbrier Bridge was built in 1854-56 by Lemuel Chenoweth of Beverley this bridge has meant much to the development of Pocahontas County and to the growth of Marlinton as it is the largest shipping point in Pocahontas County serving a larger area.

Pocahontas County has had many famous sons in the formation and growth of the county as N.C McNeill a native son who took to the law profession in his early years, was one of Pocahontas County's distinguished criminal lawyer and later represented this district in the State Senate, other attorneys were Andrew Price, L.M McClintic, F.R Hill who in his later years served in the legislature, A.P Edgar lawyer and Prosecuting Attorney for a number of years, in later years Pocahontas has put out new lawyers in J.E Buckley and A.E Cooper who are practicing at this time. Pocahontas County has twin brothers that they should be proud and justly so, in the Sharp brothers, Summers and George Summers served for 20 years on the bench as Circuit Judge serving the counties of Greenbrier, Monroe and Pocahontas and in 1936 ran

MINES & INDUSTRY. S.G.S. HILLSBORO. W.VA. POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

An UNSUCCESSFUL race for governor of the state, while his brother served a term as clerk of the court and later served as Secretary of state.

No man ever lived in Pocahontas County that was more universally loved than the late Squire L Brown who served as clerk of the county court continuously from 1884 until the time of his death 1934 with the exception of a term served by the late C.J McCarty.

Durbin the largest town in the upper Pocahontas was chartered in 1906 is the shipping and mercantile center for the northern end of the county largely built up by the tannery at Frank, Cass a lumbering town below Durbin was brought about by the lumbering industry of Pocahontas County. Greenbank a rural town in an agricultural section was the homes of many of the pioneers of Pocahontas that migrated across the Allegheny's to erect tanneries, grist-mills and the like, as this section is famous for its fine quality buckwheat that was one of the principal crops of our sturdy pioneers.

Pocahontas county produced another favorite son that had much to do with the advancement and progress of the county, this man is George W McClintic who has served as Federal Judge of the southern district of W.Va. for a number of years, besides this he is owner of vast farm and grazing lands at Buckeye and on Williams River that produces mules, cattle and lambs in large numbers ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~.

Peter Lightner was the builder of the first grist mill, this mill was erected on Knapps Creek, this was quite an improvement on the way they had to make meal before that time as up to that time they used the hominy block and the hollowed out log in which they pounded the corn until it was fine enough to bake into bread.

In the early days a man by the name of John Harness began hauling goods from Staunton to Pocahontas County to trade to the settlers for their pelts, venison, ginseng etc. for which they received salt, coffee, powder, lead, and he always carried a piece of calico this trading post was at Huntersville at the cabin of John Bradshaw, from this fact the place became known as Huntersville, a name which it has ever since retained. It was no uncommon thing for the merchants to make from three to four hundred percent on dry goods and near that amount on groceries but shortly the Warm Springs-Huntersville road was built then stores of size and importance came into existence namely Amos Barlow, J.C. Loury & Son, and Loury & Doyle. Here for many years a thriving business was carried on in the harness and saddlery business, first by John Haines then by William Fertig and lastly by William Grose & Son. Before the children of Israel brought ready made clothing to our county tailoring was a good business at Huntersville. Messers Campbell and John & James Holden turned out a great deal of work. Weddings always gave the saddlers a goodly share of

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY.S.G.S.HILLSBORO.W.VA.POCAHONTAS CO.

BUSINESS as it was considered good form for the bride to have a new outfit, horse, saddle, and bridle and most of this was made at huntersville at that time.

Jack Tidd, William Dilley and G.W Ginger operated blacksmith shops at Huntersville at different times.

For a long series of years nothing seemed more flourishing than the hostelry business in conjunction with salooning, this was particularly true with one of the largest hotels at Huntersville and was operated success-
ion by J. Williams. John Bussard. John Holden. Porterfield Wallace, I.O Carpenter and F. Campbell but was burned in the fire of 1852. Another hotel operated by William Gibson, John Haines and Davis Hamilton this one was burned during the war.

Information-----C.W Price. Marlinton. W.Va.

History of Pocahontas County, by William T Price.

Rella F Yeager. Hillsboro. W.Va.

Hardeatys History And Encyclopedia.

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COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. SAMUEL G. SMITH HILLSBORO, W. VA. POCA. CO.

The livestock industry of Pocahontas County is its greatest industry at this time and the money derived from sale of the same is the largest of any industry in the county, much of this livestock is bought by our local livestock buyer and dealer George P. Edgar of Hillsboro who buys and ships cattle and sheep not only from this county but all the adjoining counties.

In traveling through the county on route 219 you will see many herds of beef cattle and many flocks of sheep grazing in the bluegrass that is found so plentiful in the Little Levels section, but today many of these beef cattle are being replaced by their slim sister the dairy cow as many farmers throughout the county have taken to dairying either shipping their cream or selling to a truck from Ronceverte but today dairying is in its infancy in Pocahontas County but should be one of the leading industries in a few years as we have ideal climatic conditions along with abundance of bluegrass pasture and ample grain. Hogs are not as plentiful as in years past due to lack of mast that use to be so plentiful especially before the blight killed all the chestnut trees but today some farmers are specializing in hog raising and on these farms you will find from 100 to 150 hogs being fattened for the eastern markets each fall from grain largely produced at home. Along about 1900 and before hogs roamed the mountains about at will and oftentimes went wild and had to be hunted and killed like the wild hog in ancient times, they made their

living from the woods eating mast,worms,roots and etc.therefore producing cheap meat but times have changed as we have very little mast and very few if any hogs running at large in the mountains.

Pocahontas County ranks high in the production of both poultry and eggs and you find a small flock of chickens on every farm in the county most of which are general purpose or utility chickens but scattered about throughout the county you will find a goodly sized flock of layers and now and then a flock of show birds the latter being exhibited at both the Pocahontas County Fair at Marlinton and at the Greenbrier County Fair near Lewisburg in Greenbrier County.The income derived from the sale of chickens and eggs pays the farmers grocery bills as a general thing.Most of the live poultry going to Philadelphia Pa.and to Baltimore Md.and during the holiday season it is not uncommon to see from 300 to 350 coops of chickens going down on the train this means several thousands of dollars to the farmers of this section each year.

It is very convincing that the livestock industry is the main industry of the county at this time,this being a limestone section and with the lime and phosphate that is being applied in connection with the soil conservation program Pocahontas County will be able to produce more and better livestock in years to come as it always has been a county that produced livestock of a very high quality,but the government program for the farmer will make the land

more fertile.

Many horses are produced in Pocahontas County, especially the draft or heavy horse as the hard road and the automobile have caused a decrease in the raising of saddle horses, but the tractor has done much to cut down in the numbers of draft horses on farms over the county.

Several flocks of goats are found throughout the county most of which are used in clearing land, as they are great for eating and peeling small and young growth timber and sprouts.

The principal agricultural products of Pocahontas County are corn, oats wheat, hay, potatoes, apples, peaches, grapes and rye in the approximate order named. At the present time the production of Potatoes is getting considerable consideration as it has been found that farmers of Pocahontas County can produce a quality potatoe equal to the ones shipped in from Maine and other potato producing states of the east, therefore the potato acreage of the county is growing each year and with proper care we have yields of from 400 to 500 bushels of quality potatoes most of which are sold within the state to some of the larger hotels and restaurants, mainly at the Greenbrier Hotel at White Sulphur Springs and at Covington Va. all bringing market price and greatly in demand as these hotels, as they have a trade that demands the best.

Pocahontas county is not a grain county as she does not produce en-

Commerce And Industry.S.G.S.Pocahontas Co.

ough wheat to bread her therefore she has to depend on outside supplies for flour.Today you find Hybrid corn growing in many sections of the county where it use to be impossible in the days of our pioneer ancestors to get any ~~new~~ corn to ripen at all,and this had to be on low land near the river,but today corn ripens in any part of the county.Much of the corn raised in Pocahontas is put in silos for winter feeding.Oats are the principal crop of the mountainous sections of the county where it is rather cool the summer through as they do well in a cool climate,the same as potatoes therefore the Williams River and Cranberry sections are good for potatoes and oats,and have been since the county was first settled.

Information-W.Va.Geological Survey.By Paul Price.

W.Va.News. Ronceverte.W.Va.By Edd Blake.

Agricultural Statistics.

E.B Callison.Marlington.W.Va.

W.G McKeever Buckeye. "

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COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. SAMUEL G SMITH POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

One of the sacred duties resting on the living is to preserve memories of worthy citizens that have gone on before, and they from a rough wild nurse land, whose crops were men. The Shawnee Indians preceded the pioneers in Pocahontas County with the actual use of hunting grounds, their warriors were buried by their tribes in many localities of Pocahontas County these were mounds or Indian graves which are found near Buckeye and on Elk River then came the pioneers that were buried in a different manner as they were buried in home made caskets then came the modern funeral director with the factory built casket and the modern funeral home. One of the first to handle caskets was A.R Smith of Hillsboro who is near 90 years old he had the horse drawn vehicle then there came to Pocahontas County another Smith that took up the same work his name is Z.S Smith Sr, assisted by his son Clarence they have an up to date place in Marlinton taking over most of the work in the county, as A.R Smith was forced to quit on account of advanced age. Wallace & Wallace have a branch at Cass with J.B. Sutton in charge.

Most if not all the caskets used in the mountainous sections of the county were made by carpenters and cabinet makers namely Washington Beverage and M. Dorman at Buckeye A.R Smith at Hillsboro and many others throughout the county all this lumber was cut on the old up-and down mills and the first circular mills that came into the county. Some of our cemet-

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY. SAMUEL G. SMITH HILLSBORO. W. VA. POCAHONTAS CO.

graves were started as family plots, some the results of Indian raids, the largest and best kept is Mt. View Cemetery overlooking the town of Marlinton which is owned by the town.

Pocahontas County is known as a recreational section as tourists from all over the United States visit and pass through the county each year and to take care of these tourists out in nature's paradise tourists cabins have been erected along all the leading highways ~~XX~~ so they will be away from the heat and noise of the cities and towns, these cabins are lit by electricity the northern part of the county by the West Penn while the lower part of the county is served by the Virginia Public Service you find these cabins on Droop Mountain, made of pine logs at Droop Camp filling station, at Hillsboro George Bartholomew has up to date cabins just outside the town limits, at Buckeye W. W. Graham has cabins some finished with native stone that are cool in summer and warm in winter other cabins are found on Knapps Creek and on Elk at L. D. Sharps.

In getting away from the sweltering heat requires ice cold soft drinks and these are made and distributed by T. J. Mason and his son Walter they own and operate the only bottling works in the county known as Marlinton Bottling Works, with a large and a small truck they supply the county as this is one of the leading industries of the county especially in the hot

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SUMMER MONTHS, and Wilbur Sharp makes ice cream that is sold locally and in his place of business.

George Bartholomew owner of The Feed Bag, that serves meals, sells gasoline and oil and has a number of cabins, Mr. Bartholomew is a wood worker and cabinet maker as he has a work shop in the rear of the filling station where he makes all sorts of furniture and novelties made of wood, inlay work of many designs and many kinds of wood, these articles find ready ~~xxx~~ sale as the tourist trade buys his entire output consisting of fancy tables, table lamps and many other oddities made of wood that is produced here in Pocahontas County, sales from his products run high especially during the tourist season.

Handicraft is rather undeveloped in Pocahontas County as the county produces barks suitable for weaving baskets and other novelties that are made from bark, this could be made one of the leading industries of the county, but due to lack of weavers of knowledge in weaving it is undeveloped at the present time. Incomes of considerable size could be made during the summer or tourist trade season by selling craft made from bark along our main highways and at filling stations located throughout the county. Pocahontas has many old antiques and each year antique dealers from out of the state buy what they can in the way of corner cupboards, desks, tables, chairs, wooden bed stands, old spinning wheels, stone ware and many other articles used by our forefathers, some

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, S.G.S. POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

people here in the county have rooms furnished in old antiques. The Prices

Mrs. Anna Hunter, T.S McNeel and Mrs Dr McOutcheon are gatherers of this

are in the county. Much of which is exhibited at the Pocahontas County

fair in the old time exhibits which attracts more attention than any other

exhibit, all articles made of wood are made from black walnut or cherry from

the W.Va. hills in Pocahontas County, these articles are cherished very much

by their owners as they played a very important part in the building and

growth of the county as many of these articles and furniture were used by

the first settlers of Pocahontas County and have been in use all down thro-

ugh the years. In talking to some of our older people and discussing these

old relics they say they bring back recollections that are very dear to

them as their parents and grandparents used these articles when they sett-

led the wilds of old Pocahontas.

So be it said that these articles so highly cherished today were
the impliments and furniture around which started the growth of the county.

Information-----G.B Bartholomew. Hillsboro, W.Va.

Rella F Yeager. " "

T.S McNeel Marlinton, W.Va.

C.W Price. " "((

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Hardestys History, Property Of Rella Yeager.

Marlinton the county seat of Pocahontas County, is beautifully situated at the junction of Knapps Creek and the Greenbrier River, with an elevation of 2,123 feet above sea-level. It is the site of the oldest settlement in Pocahontas County made by Stephen Sewell and Jacob Marlin during the winter of 1750-51 and was known as Marlin's Bottom until 1887. In Dec. 1890 Colonel John T McGraw purchased the farms known as Marlin's Bottom and the Pocahontas Development Company was chartered to promote the town. It offered \$5,000. to be applied on a new court-house if the people would change the county-seat from Huntersville to Marlinton which was done by special election and the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway was begun immediately and completed in 1905 and since the completion of the railroad the town has continued to grow.

Located in Marlinton is a High and Graded School two banks The Bank Of Marlinton and The First National, the town has two weekly newspapers the Pocahontas Times established in 1889 by the Prices and now edited by B Marshall. *The Times first published* 1883 by James B Canfield & Hezekiah Calvin Price, The Marlinton Journal was established in 1918 and owned by the Woodyard Publication of Spencer.W.Va. The Greenbrier Tannery of the Union Tanning Co., under the supervision of S.N Hensch operated here for years or until it burned about 1928¹ was rebuilt but did not operate until 1941 when it was bought by the United States Leather Co., a branch of the International

Commerce And Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W.Va. Pocahontas Co.
Company of St. Louis Mo. S.B Wallace & Company wholesale druggists, Clifton Forge Grocery, wholesale grocers with J.A McLaughlin as salesman and mgr.
an up to date hardware store owned and operated by C.J Richardson & sons
A.G Killingsworth building contractor and building material born in Marlinton took to building construction at an early age and has built many of the business houses and dwellings in Marlinton, as the town grew more stores and other business establishments were built as today you find the following home owned stores Thomas & Thomas ~~XXX~~ owned by Mrs Anna Thomas, O.K Grocery by Laura Nelson, The Shrader Store by Glenn Shrader, P.C Curry general store, Williams & Pifer gen store, Forest Malcomb gen. store, Peoples Store & Supply Co. by the late Ira D Brill and now owned by his wife Lura Brill, an up to date drug store with Drs. Allen & Callison as owners, News stand and confections Harry Sharp and another by *the mens shop by Paul overholt,* his brother Wilber, T.D Moore Dry goods and groceries with an up to date jewelry store by Amos Woodell, Langs dress Shop by Fleta & Mable Lang, a shoe repair shop by Dice Grimes and another by Raymond Wiley. Marlinton also has the following garages *Kent*
Rexrodes 5+109 Ave.
Walter
Earl
Pink
Baxters , Rexrodes, Shafers, A.C Pifer, Sheets & Kingor Marlinton Electric all of places of business are home owned and operated and grew with the expansion of the town with the help of all the public spirited men namely Calvin Price and the late Andrew Price, S.B Wallace, *(The late)* Ira D Brill, and many others as the population in 1900 was 171, in 1910 it was 1,045 and in 1940 it was 1500

Commerce & Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Poca, Co.

Marlinton has three gasoline distribution tanks The Standard Oil Co.

Sheets & King, American, and Williams & Pifer Conoco.

Years ago in the days of what was called the peddler days Paul

Golden carried a pack on his back all over the hills of Pocahontas County

making enough money to start a department store which he operated for ye-

ars later going into the lumber business but at present in the Wholesale

Dry Goods business covering several states. Marlinton has an up to date meat

market owned by Frank McLaughlin.

Marlinton has the following hotels The Marlin Sewell, Clarks Home Ho-

tel, Weifords Hotel besides many tourists homes the one in the town is operated

by Mrs. S. J. Rexrode.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Marlinton has had many doctors both medical and surgical

many of the earlier ones moved out but we find Drs. Norman and James Price,

O. A. Howard in the medical field while we find Drs. Harry Solter and K. J. Ham-

rick in both the medical and surgical field all these men administering to the

many people of Pocahontas County the surgery being performed in the Pocahontas

Memorial Hospital under the supervision of Mrs. N. S. Woodyard.

Hillsboro is the oldest town in Pocahontas County from the standpoint

of incorporation, having been chartered in 1886. The town of Huntersville was

incorporated 1822 by the Virginia Assembly but charter was surrendered at a

XXXXXX date unknown. Hillsboro is located on a broad level plain with an elevation of 2,302 feet being situated in the midst of the finest limestone farming section in the county and is largely supported by the products of these farms and for many years Hillsboro was the educational center of that region and supported the Hillsboro Academy as Hillsboro was known as Academy for many years as it was established in 1842 was incorporated in that year under a charter granted by the state of Virginia the incorporators were the late men Joseph Beard, S. D. Poage, Samuel L Mathews, Moses H Poage, John Hill, Thomas Hill, James Miller, and Richard McNeel the first principal was the Rev. Joseph Brown who served for seven years and was succeeded by Rev. M. D. Dunlap who served until the war came on in 1860 and the school closed, after this the county purchased the building for public school purposes, this was the first school of high order in the county and it left its impression upon the education interests of this mountain region as many of our leaders of today received a part of their education at this old academy.

Hillsboro has continued to grow as an educational center as today we find a population of 225 a part of which are people who have moved in for educational advantages as today there is a high school and a graded school.

About 1910 or 11 Edgar H McLaughlin with his brother the late Lee P McLaughlin started what was known at that time as a horse show but later developed into our county fair and it was at this show that some of the best

Commerce and Industry. Samuel G Smith Pocahontas Co.

horses that Pocahontas County ever produced or owned were raced or shown among them was ~~Fair~~ Fair ~~held~~ owned by Robert Burns, Gratten Patch raced by Dr. Sandy Arbuckle, Tom Thumb by Lacy Johnson, Dock Blackburn by Pat Gay and many others. McLaughlins operated this fair for 3 or 4 years each year they ~~XX~~ went to Mt. Sterling Ky. and brought in many fine saddle horses that were sold at public auction. The late George Vallison also brought in many fine gaited horses and sold them throughout the county. The last year the show operated was under the management of Dr. Marvin C Smith as he rented it that year. About 1915 this show was moved to Marlinton to lower Camden where they operated for a short time and finally the present ^{SITE} ~~sight~~ was bought and a corporation was formed and called The Pocahontas County Fair which we still have with added features to what it was at the start, the management was Dr. S. B. Wallace, John Sydenstricker, L. H. Williams and Z. S. Smith and many others this was all done by public spirited men for the development of our county, and today this fair is looked forward to by thousands of our people and is a homecoming for the ones out of the county and state. Hillsboro is in the center of what many people have called the cup like shaped basin of fertile soil from which has been farmed for several generations from the pioneer to the present time among the first farmers were the following Charles W Beard, Sherman H Clark, Richard W Hill, ^{William L McNeil} Franklin Renick, and others, the first physician was

Commerce & Industry. S.G Smith Pocahontas Co.

Wm P Bryan and James A LaRue all of these men were born in the early part of the 18th century.

At the time of the breaking out of the war William Curry was serving as both County and Circuit Clerk and feeling the county records were in danger the court ordered the records removed to the home of the late Joel Hill here they remained till 1862 when Mr Curry became alarmed and had them removed to Covington Va, for safe keeping later to be removed to the residence of William Clark where they were concealed in a stack of buckwheat straw and later to the mountains and stored away at the house of a Baptist minister and at the close of the war court was held in the old Methodist Church at Hillsboro. These men were true to their trust. ~~THE~~

These accomplishments were made by public spirited men working for and contributing to the growth of Pocahontas County.

Inf----- C.W Price Marlinton. W.Va.

Rella F Yeager. Hillsboro. "

Hardestys History and Geographical Encyclopedia (property of Rella Yeager)

M.C Smith Hillsboro. W.Va.

W.Va. Geological Survey. By Paul Price.

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As the timber was cleared the level and more fertile land was taken for agriculture in Pocahontas County. The land and climate was adapted to livestock farming and so livestock of all kinds was imported from other sections the greater number being sheep no doubt as they are known as the Golden Hoof EX for Pocahontas County as for many years the sale of wool and lambs has brought more money into the county than any other thing. About the first sheep brought in by the first settlers was the Merino that has long been famous for its fine wool as well as mutton qualities, this furnished wool for the many spinning wheels, carding machines and foot-powered looms, the Merino was a hardy sheep and well adapted to this county, these were followed by the Shropshire and Southdown which were not only desirable for wool purposes but produced fine quality of mutton and today this section of the Greenbrier Valley produces some of the best mutton lambs that is found in the state which are shipped to the eastern markets where they are slaughtered and the carcasses dressing out better than the average, the sheep industry has contributed more toward the growth of the county than any other livestock, as we find sheep on 90% of the farms of Pocahontas County that give cash returns two times yearly the wool in the spring and the lamb crop in the fall, thus making them the most valuable livestock that the farmers of the county can keep and today you find fine flocks of sheep of many different breeds

grazing on the hills and in the vales, but not in as great numbers as use to be as the bear that roam the mountainous sections of the county are plentiful and each year they eat and destroy several hundred dollars worth of sheep, some farmers goingx out of the business others handling only what they can keep in the more thickly populated and close in sections the dogs have played havoc with the sheep industry along with the bear and unless steps are taken to rid the county of bear and strict dog laws the sheep industry in Pocahontas County is on the decline and the peak was reached about 1930 as the government has bought up a large percent of the mountainous section of the county, with no inhabitants thus making this a bears paradise ideal for the sportsman but very hard on the sheep raisers and producers of the county thus a decrease in the sheep industry for which Pocahontas County is noted and gets her greatest cash income from. As sheep thrive on high ground and most of this is government owned the numbers will be less, their lives shorter and a decrease in income to the farmers.

In Pocahontas we find many Registered flocks, namely Hampshires, Dorsets, Cheviots, Southdown Shropshire and Corridales most of these flocks have been established since 1900 and today some of the best flocks of these breeds that are found in the state are found in Pocahontas County and most of these flocks are exhibited at the Pocahontas County Fair, The Greenbrier EXX Valley

fair and some going to The Richmond State Fair and to Baltimore winning many prizes. The first Purebred herds established in Pocahontas County were Hampshires beyond a doubt and were brought into the county by F.H McLaughlin and his brother the late Lee P McLaughlin both of Hillsboro and at present we find XX flocks of Purebred Hampshires owned By Ralph Arbogast of Millpoint, one by F.H Williams and A.C Barlow of Marlinton and one by Monroe Beard at Arbovale, W.A Arbogast of Millpoint has a fine flock of Cheviots, we find Dorsets and Southdowns scattered throughout the county but the largest flock of Dorsets is owned by A.C Barlow and the most Southdowns are being produced by F.H Williams with S.G Smith of Hillsboro starting a purebred flock of Southdowns, these breeders furnish rams to the many sheep men of the county and state, many of which are sold through the Extension Department at the many ram sales held throughout the state.

Cattle are next in importance in the way of income in the county and we have two types the beef type and the dairy type but the most important at this time is the beef animal as many farmers and cattle men throughout the county produce and sell the finished product found in the 3 year old steer these come from Hereford, Shorthorn and Aberdeen-Angus breeds for which the county is famous, one of the first breeders of Purebred Beef Cattle was the late Richard Callison who bought some Registered Herefords from out of the

Commerce & Industry. S. G. S.-Pocahontas Co.

He was a large livestock farmer on Locust Creek, his work was carried on by his sons E. E. & D. M. Callison. Today you find Registered herds in many sections of the county where bluegrass grows you will find plenty of fat cattle. The late J. S. McNeel of the levels was a pioneer in the Purebred Beef Cattle business as he brought into the county from all parts of the U. S. the finest cattle that money could buy at that time and today some of the same bloodlines that these gentlemen brought to the county still exist. Among the breeders of Hereford cattle that were registered are the following men besides the ones above mentioned F. P. Kidd breeder of Hereford *the late J. M. Gullip of Beard now operated by his son J. R.* and Aberdeen Angus, M. C. Smith of Hillsboro, A. C. Barlow and Chas. Baxter of the Edray section and Howard Hevener of the Greenbank section.

E. H. Williams of Marlinton is breeder of Milking Shorthorns these men make up the bulk of the Purebred breeders of Pocahontas County. Each year some of these men exhibit at the Pocahontas County Fair at Marlinton, thus advertising their stock for which they find a ready sale from all over the state.

Many breeders are sold through the calf sale at Marlinton and the best taken to Jacksons Mill to be sold there to the many livestock breeders from over the state.

According to reliable authority the man to which much credit should go is to our past county agent C. P. Dorsey as he no doubt did more for the

livestock industry. S.G.S. Pocahontas Co.
as he built up the Livestock Shipping Association, the wool pool, the Farm
Bureau to the highest possible peak, as this type of men are needed every-
where so the State Department at Morgantown having noticed his achievements
in Pocahontas County and took him to Morgantown to the Extension Department.
It was through his efforts that we have our feeder calf sale annually, the
ram sale, and more purebred sires on the farms of Pocahontas County.

Information- E.B Callison. Marlinton. W. Va.

M.C Smith	Hillsboro.	" "
W.G McKeever	Buckeye.	" "

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Pocahontas-7
Subject Commerce And Industry

Date 6/13/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

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Typist Samuel G Smith

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Source C.W Price & J.O Morrison Marlinton Filed

Mrs. Ligon Coyner. Cloverlick. W. Va.

W.G McKeever & Nancy A McNeill Buckeye W. Va.



Maple sugar and Maple syrup-

The maple syrup industry of Pocahontas County started back in Indian times as we first had the wooden trough burned out by the Indian and hot rocks were used in these troughs to boil the sugar water down, then the old iron kettle used by the hardy pioneer that first settled in Pocahontas then came along the sugar pan and today we find many of the up to date evaporators in use in some of our larger sugar orchards in Pocahontas County.

Sugar maple trees are found in many parts of Pocahontas especially on the elevated flats and in the many rich coves scattered over almost the entire county. Many old sugar trees found throughout the county bear the mark of many tappings and some in a very crude way as some were tapped by the upward stroke of an ax and in this notch a thin shingle like board was driven this carried the sugar water to the old open trough which was either burned or chopped out of some sort of soft wood namely Poplar, and Cucumber and the troughs made by the Indians were burned out and by the first settlers while the troughs made in the latter part of the 18th century and the ones made at the present time were chopped out with a foot adz many of which are found in some of the older camps throughout the county that are opened each year for home use, the old time spile made from sumach to carry the water from the tree to the trough was used until it was replaced by the metal spile on which was made hooks on which to fasten the buckets.

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY. SAMUEL G. SMITH HILLSBORO, W. VA. POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

X Many sugar camps are tapped each spring throughout the county but most of these are for home use however we find many camps that make both syrup and sugar for sale among them is an up to date camp on Clover Creek Mountain operated by Ligon Coyner of Cloverlick the sugar orchard is on Government land but the camp is on the farm of Berry Coyner this is the largest camp in Pocahontas County and said to be the 3rd largest camp in the United States. They started operation in the spring of 1940 at which time they tapped enough trees to use 6,500 buckets. His equipment consists of an evaporator with the capacity of 20,000 gallons of sugar water extensive pipelines a storage tank or gathering tank) his entire equipment cost between \$4 and \$5,000.00 in this evaporator is what is known as a Hydrometer an instrument for measuring the specific gravity of liquids, also the strength of liquids and by the use of this they are able to make syrup of uniform thickness, color and strength by using this instrument they are able to make a syrup to put on the market meeting all standards of requirements set forth by the government according to Mrs Ligon Coyner 20,000 gallons of sugar water makes about 600 gallons of high grade syrup which they find ready sale as this syrup is bought for fancy trade as they sell the Greenbrier Hotel at White Sulphur Springs 200 or more gallons each year besides what is sold locally to the W. Va. Pulp and Paper Company at Cass, W. Va. the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ remainder going to Ohio in bulk in

Commerce and Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
Maple Syrup Industry.

50 gallon barrels, but most of what was sold locally was put up in pint, quarts, half gallon and gallon cans all of which brought \$ 2.00 per gallon.

In 1940 they made 500 gallon and in the season of 41 they made between 900 and 1000 gallon a part of this syrup was made into fancy package sugar by using small molds of maple leaf and rose design these boxes are put on the market for sale on special occasions namely birthday and gift boxes for which they receive 80 cents per pound, this is very high grade light colored very fine grain and of excellent flavor for which the tourist trade is very fond and according to Mrs Coyner they hope to build up a trade on this fancy package sugar (or candy) . Both 1940 and 41 were bad years as the season was very short .

Mr. Coyner employs 15 men steady but at times during a heavy run he had as high as 30 men gathering water, cutting wood and firing the furnace. They are very much interested in the maple syrup and sugar industry and hope to be able to produce in good years from 3 to 5,000 gallons then they hope to be able to compete with Vermont known as the Maple sugar state as we here in Pocahontas County according to government officials have ideal trees ideal elevation and in fact all it takes to produce maple syrup of high quality in sufficient quantity to impress out of state buyers and consumers so there is no reason why the Maple sugar industry should not become the leading industry

Commerce & Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

in many sections of Pocahontas County.

Some other camps of worthy notice is the W.G McKeever camp on Sw-ago Creek they usually make from 1 to 200 gallons they use a pan and sell the syrup locally and to people passing through the county, another camp of considerable size is the C.W Kennison camp just out of Hillsboro on the Lobelia road they have a small evaporator and usually make around 500 gal-
lons sold locally, the income derived from the sale of maple syrup and ^{sugar} syrup means a great deal to the farmers of Pocahontas County in the way of extra income. However, many of the smaller camps have been cut down and put into lum-ber that is greatly in demand at this particular time, most of the sugar maple trees cut now show the marks of being tapped years and years ago by our fore-fathers.

Tradition has it that the Indians found out about the syrup from sugar water by chopping notches in sugar trees letting it freeze the water of no syrup content freezing solid and what did not freeze was maple syrup so this is the way of making syrup without boiling but made by freezing. if this is true, syrup has been made by the Indians several hundred years ago.

A by product of sugar water is sugar tree beer and vinegar both were made by the first settlers of Pocahontas County the writer having seen both made by the McKeevers at Duckeye, as they are people that try to produce

Commerce And Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

their living on the farm and come as near doing so as any farm the writer has ever visited in his many years of contact work. As the pioneer of Pocahontas County had to depend on maple syrup and sugar for sweetening therefore it had its place with the early settlers, as they often times traded maple sugar to the merchant for coffee and other necessary articles that the pioneer did not produce therefore it took the place of money and helped with the exchange of goods. Many of my informants say the day of buckwheat cakes and tree syrup were days never to be forgotten, and that the syrup helped to make up their daily diet which consisted principally of sweet corn pone, strong coffee, bacon and syrup.

Information---Mrs. Ligon Coyner. Cloverlick. W. Va.

W. G McKeever. Buckeye. W. Va.

C. W Price Marlinton. W. Va.

J. O Morrison. " "

Nancy A McNeill. Buckeye. W. Va.

Pacahostee Chapter 7



Efficient Production
And Wise Marketing
Boost Potato Profits



— Marlinton Journal
11/10/40





Master Potato Growers of West Virginia for 1939 view the results of their work. Upper left: Wilbur Moore of Mill Point, Pocahontas county, wearing a crown of potatoes and displaying some of his choice spuds. Lower left: Roy W. Godley, Agricultural Counselor for Monongahela West Penn Public Service Company; Robert L. Hammer, Randolph county agricultural agent; and J. Earle Romine, Master Potato Grower in Randolph, looking over his equipment for putting potatoes up in 15-lb bags with "Upper Ten" label. Upper right: Part of potato exhibit at Randolph County Grain and Potato Show. Lower right: L. M. Beeghley of Brandonville, Master Potato Grower of Preston county.

vied with each other during the past year in demonstrating the possibilities of potatoes as a cash crop in a project sponsored cooperatively by the Upper Monongahela Valley Association, the Monongahela West Penn Public Service Company, and the Agricultural Extension Service of West Virginia University in each of the counties; the Preston County Potato Growers' Association in that county; and the Daily Inter-Mountain newspaper in Randolph.

Fields of growers cooperating in the project were inspected for freedom from weeds and disease and insect injury and for vigor of growth. Acreage and yields were recorded, and the methods used in production including kind of seed used, maintenance of organic matter in the soil and fertilization, and disease and insect control were carefully checked. Methods of harvesting and marketing the crop were also considered, with a view to determining who was entitled to recognition as the Master Potato Grower in each county.

Awards Are Given Winners

Wilbur E. Moore of Mill Point, Pocahontas County; L. M. Beeghley

of Brandonville, Preston County; and J. Earle Romine of Beverly, Randolph county were first place winners and declared Master Potato Growers in their respective counties. Each received a cash reward of \$25. The Randolph county winner also received a silver loving cup provided by the daily Inter-Mountain newspaper of Elkins.

Hevener Dilley of Huntersville and George V. Hannah, of Arbovale placed second and third in Pocahontas county. Roy Durst of Amboy and Charles C. Knapp of Terra Alta were second and third in Preston, and second and third place winners were D. P. Linger and Son of Huttonsville and Leslie Vanscoy of Montrose.

The Master Potato Grower project was instituted for the first time last season in West Virginia with a three-fold purpose: (1) to bring to the attention of growers recommended practices in production and marketing, (2) to give recognition to growers doing a good job, and (3) to demonstrate the possibilities of supplementing the cash income of farmers in the state by growing potatoes for market.

—Martinton Journal

1/18/40

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COMMERCE & INDUSTRY. SAMUEL G SMITH HILLSBORO, W. VA. POCAHONTAS COUNTY.
TANNING.

Pocahontas County has had tanneries of various sizes operating since the first settlers came here. *The Greenbrier Tannery*
The Union Tanning Company operating in the Greenbrier Valley under the Greenbrier Tannery began operation about 1901, their main office was in New York they operated continuously until until 1927 when the original plant burned, however a new and up-to-date tannery was built upon the original site, but it failed to operate and was idle from 1928 until 1941.

Both tanbark and extract was used from 01 to 28 when it was running at capacity, and the daily capacity at that time was about 600 hides and at that time they employed about 150 men both skilled and unskilled with an approximate pay-roll of \$ 120,000 per year. This tannery had a reputation of producing a very fine grade of leather which was known by the trade name of "Greenbrier", and was in great demand by the leather industry all over the eastern part of the U S. The finished product was shipped almost entirely to Boston, Massachusetts.

The general manager was S. N. Hench, and today a part of Marlinton is made up of the Tannery row houses most all of them are along the Greenbrier River bank on the eastern bank, this tannery contributed greatly to the growth and development of Marlinton and the Idlay District as the monthly pay-roll was about \$ 10,000 per month, this made the town of Marlinton grow, caused

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY SAMUEL G SMITH HILLSBORO. W.VA. POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

outside people to move in, this made a market that in turn caused many stores to be built to supply the needs of the tannery workers and their families some 40 to 50 dwelling houses were built by the Union Tanning Co.

This plant was idle until the spring of 41 when it was bought by the International Shoe Company of St. Louis Missouri and is run under the firm name of Marlinton Tannery of International Shoe Co. of St. Louis Mo. they having a contract with the federal government to supply them with several thousand pairs of shoes, and at the present time they are employing from 120 to 130 men and will hire more as they get production started, the present pay roll runs about \$10,000 monthly. This pay-roll helps greatly and when the tannery whistle blew for the first time in 12 years the people of Marlinton and surrounding countryside were joyous because they knew Marlinton would again have a pay-roll which is boosting the local markets.

Pocahontas County has another tannery located at Frank. W. Va. near Durbin it runs under the name of Pocahontas Tanning Co. and was started in 1904 by J.G Hoffman Sr. and J.G Hoffman Jr. J.G Hoffman 3rd and Frank Hoffman all of Wheeling W. Va. and Frank Howes and E.G Howes of Boston Mass.

This plant is located at Frank W. Va. which is near Durbin and the two combined have a population of 1000 which has access to both the C & O and Western Maryland Railroad at Durbin. there is from 40 to 50 houses at Frank

that are occupied by employees of the Pocahontas Tannery the present number of employees is 300 and the average monthly payroll is \$35,000.

The general Manager and Sup't of production is H.M Widney assistant sup'ts W.W Hoover and H.J Widney, Chemist Arthur N Kay, Chief Engineer G.F Carlson-Accountant W.F Groff assisted by M.M Brown. The president of the company is J.G Hoffman 3rd he is also treasurer, F.G Howes Vice pres. F.E Seabright secretary and ass't treasurer,

This tannery has a daily capacity of 3000 sides of sole leather which is shipped here from South America, Australia, New Zeland, Canada and Mexico besides that which is shipped from the many packing centers of the U.S.A. The entire output of this tannery is made into sole leather which is made from cattle hides only, that is shipped to all ^{Shoe} manufacturing centers ~~XXX~~ here in the U.S.A besides some is shipped abroad to be used there.

These two tanneries not only furnish employment to several hundred of Pocahontas County men but this tanning industry located as they are furnish a market for the surplus commodities of both Edray and Greenbank Districts and have contributed greatly to the growth of the two sections of the county as Frank has grown from a farming section to a town of over 400 population this has meant more schools and larger ones for which Pocahontas is famous. Therefore be it said that these two tanneries as permanent industries have contributed more to the growth of Pocahontas County than any other ent-

Commerce & Industry. S. G. Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

prise so far started and not just alone the people of Pocahontas as these tanneries have helped keep our much needed rail roads operating within our borders, from the taxes paid by the employees new roads and schools have been built and maintained, which has contributed greatly to the growth of the county as our good roads and our beautiful scenery has induced many tourists to travel through our county and state and they spend much money at different centers in the county.

So be it said that tanneries were started in Pocahontas County by the first settlers and are still operating within our borders today.

Information-Calvin W Price. Marlinton. W. Va.

H. M. Widney. Frank. W. Va.

W. Va. Geological Survey. By Paul H Price.

West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Documents - 7
Subject Commerce & Industry
Iron Ore

Date X 4/12/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

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Date Typed 4/12/41

Source Mr. & Mrs James Reed. Huntersville. W. Va. Date Filed

Court Records. Marlinton. W. Va.

Calvin W Price. " " "



and Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas County.
- Greenbrier Ore Company.-

41 In July 22 1940 this company was Incorporated, its principal offices in the Capital City Building in Charleston, and to date they have worked in both Pocahontas And Greenbrier County. Their charter for the following to mine strip or process all kinds of minerals, coal and other surface and subsurface products including Iron Ore, Manganese, Coal, Oil and Gas.

The incorporators were Rush, Esther M and A Rush Meadows all of and A. V Hunter of Marlinton. W. Va. Charleston. W. Va. and during 1940 and 41 they were operating on and near Browns Mountain on the farms of James Reed, A Raymond and Sterl Shinaberry and the Amos McLaughlin place.

The equipment used was a steam shovel a bull dozer and a drill they having contracted the hauling of the Ore. It was trucked to Marlinton and there ground and made ready for the smelter that was constructed to make a test of its purity, in making this test they filled the makeshift smelter furnace with a mixture of iron ore, limestone and coal this was called a smelter furnace, when the test was finished they had a pile of iron of varying degrees of perfection and purity but but they jumped at a magnet in lively fashion. This test was made in March 1941 another test will be made with a 20 foot stack of masonry construction.

Iron Ore is found in many sections of Pocahontas County but especially is this true on the eastern part of the Greenbrier River espec-

Greenbrier Ore Co. page 2
Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
Brown Creek and Browns Mountain, The Buckley Mountains extending
to Beaver Creek, Knapps Creek and extending to Frost and beyond. Oscar
Oconnel is prospecting in the Beaverlick Mountains and has been since
1940.

If Iron Ore is found to ^Nin paying quantities Pocahontas Co-
unty will again have a boom like she had during the lumber operations
that took place from 1880 to 1925.

Pocahontas County is rich in natural resources as we find coal
in many sections of the county especially the northwestern part as there
is coal on Cheat, Gauley, Elk, Black, Mountains some of which has been open-
ed up but the greater part has never been opened up for the simple reason
it is most all found back a considerable distance from the R R and the
hard road therefore until the other fields play out Pocahontas Countys
coal no doubt will not be opened up to a very great extent until that
time, coal is also found and has been mined on Briery Knob,

It is hoped there is oil in Pocahontas County, but in all the
drilling none have been successful as yet as they have drilled in many
sections of the county but most of this was done on Williams River some
time ago but they plugged up the holes and left.

Our timber is practically gone and it is hoped someone will
come in and develop the coal, iron and any other resources of county.

Merce & Industry. S.G Smith Pocahontas County.

is the general belief that John Whitmire had the first circular

mill in operation in Pocahontas County, this operation took place at the

south of Knapps Creek sometime in the 80 s .

Inf. J.B Buckley. Buckeye. W. Va.

William Perry had an up and Down mill 2 miles from Huntersville about 1890

on Cummings Creek.

Inf. R.L Syms. Huntersville. W. Va.

66

Henry McCormick is supposed to be the first man that filed a band saw

this was during the operation of the White pine by the St. Lawrence Boom & Mfg.

Co. that had their mill at Ronceverte but got the logs in Pocahontas County.

Inf. J.B Buckley. Buckeye. W. Va.

West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Pocahontas County History
Chapter 5 section 28

Date April 24, 1941

Research Worker Juanita S. Dilley

Date Research Taken April 10

Typist Juanita S. Dilley

Date Typed April 23, 1941

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Date Filed _____

Pocahontas Times, January 2, 1930

Deed Book 35 page 15



the Telephone in Pocahontas County

the coming of the telephone to Pocahontas county was the first quick communication that we had with the busy marts of trade. It antedated the telegraph. The county was connected up with the centers by telephone in the year 1898, and that marks the beginning of quick news. I cannot say that it brought any special relief but the citizens of this county are like every one else, interested in all advancement of science and education. Inside the county, the telephone has been a convenience and a time saver from the time that it was first installed. In the year of 1899 telephone lines were built along all of the principal roads in the county. Now instead of riding to Adray, Huntersville and elsewhere for a doctor which often took many hours of hard riding in the bitter cold weather, he could now be reached in a few minutes by telephone. It has saved many a journey and many a messenger.

In 1898, the telephone had reached the town of Huttonsville, which town also had a railroad and was one of the depots for Marlinton. Marlinton occupied, that year, a peculiar situation in regard to railroad facilities, north it was 46 miles to Huttonsville; south 46 miles to Monceverte; east 46 miles to Millboro; west about 46 miles (no road) to Camden on the Gauley.

In that year, a company of Randolph County men formed the Marlinton and Severly Telephone Company, and they decided to build a telephone line into Pocahontas county. They paralleled the Huttonsville and Marlinton turnpike, from Huttonsville here with chestnut poles big enough to build a hay stack around.

On these was strung a small wire and the line came forward in a very short time. It seemed to take no time at all to connect the two villages, and no time at all to connect our shut in village with the wires that ran all over the world.

A telephone was set up in Squire Uriah Bird's Store and Justice Court room and I got the greatest thrill of my life by holding a conversation with the late Dr. Bosworth, who was in Suttonsville, forty-six miles away. I have believed in faries ever since. It was a question submitted to the local wise men how a voice could be heard that far, and the most plausible theory was by one of the neighbors in debating how sound could travel through the air instantly. We had all watched a man cutting wood at a distance and noticed that the sound reached us a long time after we saw the ax descend. The theory was that the electric field was like a plank, that when it was pushed forward that both ends moved simultaneously. This seemed to satisfy all of the neighbors who had gathered, 100%, to hear this first message to be heard over the new line.

It will be seen by the date that telephones were in more or less general use long before they reached this county, and like so many of our developments, was done by people outside the county instead of by the local people.

When we got the telephone we made much of it in the papers. It caused the Highland county paper to guy us for being so far behind the times.

We have got so mechanical now that we have to go to the woods and sleep in the rain to enjoy the peace we once knew.

From--Foschontas Times, January 2, 1930

The next telephone company to build and operate a line in this county was the Moncevert and Elkins telephone Co. whose charter found in deed Book 35 page 15 gives the following information:

Certificate Of Incorporation

September 1, 1903

Principal place of business to be at Marlinton.

its chief works shall be located in Pocahontas County and other counties.

The capital stock shall be \$10,000 to be divided into 100 shares at a par value of \$100 each.

Stockholders-----	Address-----	Number of shares
S. J. Payne	----- Academy, W. Va.---	five
E. M. Arbogast	-----Marlinton, W. Va.---	five
G. S. Mohn	-----Pennsylvania -----	five
W. A. Bratton	----- Marlinton, W. Va.----	four
J. W. Price	----- Marlinton, W. Va.---	One

Rates were high and many of the people did not feel that they could pay them, therefore the business men of the county got together and organized the mutual telephone companies that later built lines to all sections of the county.

March 20, 1940

-1-

Pocahontas County

Chapter 5-- Section 3

I learn from some of the writings of Mr. Andrew Price that he had made two visits to the flint quarries or flint pits on Stamping Creek, near Mill Point. These workings are in sight of the State highway known as the Seneca Trail on Mr. Tom Beard's farm about a mile and a half back of his residence, in a fine blue grass pasture. There are several hundred of the pits.

The most remarkable thing is that part of the range that has been called the Rich Garden for the past one hundred or so years. It is a pasture now but Mr. William Beard farmed it for a number of years. Though the land has been plowed many times, the pits are plain to be seen. At first sight it looks like a place that had been a village, where houses had been set close together walls touching, and under each house there had been a cellar. This little hollow owes its great fertility to the disintegration of the limestone, and there can be little doubt but that a large number of boulders or flint nodules were deposited there and that the Indians worked the land to a depth of some ten or twenty feet to get the flint.

Nearby are piles of round river sandstone or hammer stones and Mr. Price says that near these flint quarries these hammer stones or nut crackers are invariably found. M. D. Dunlap who lived on Stamping Creek said that these hammer stones were to be found in great quantities there.

-2-

Pocahontas County

Here was Pocahontas County's oldest industry. The red men as far north as Ohio and Marshall Counties would send their young men here with their spades made from the antlers of deer, elk and moose, staked their claims and worked them and carried back to the flint workers the nodules secured on the expedition.

Peter Lightner was one of the first settlers in what is now Pocahontas County. He was a German-Dutchman and came from the eastern part of the state. He settled on Knapps Creek. Prior to his coming, there were no mills nearer than Staunton which was a hundred miles distant through a trackless wilderness. This was too far to think of going to mill so the people prepared their own corn for bread. The method was simple: a large tree was felled, from which a block or cut was taken, which when placed on end was probably as high as a man's waist. It was placed on end in front of the cabin, then a fire was built upon it and so managed that an inverted cone was formed. From this the charred coals were taken and the hominy block was ready for use. A peck or more of shelled corn was put in and pounded until it was reduced to coarse meal from which bread was then baked. Another plan was to boil the corn until it was quite soft, then pound into a jelly which was dried and used as needed. This preparation was called hominy meal. Mr Lightner remedied all this. He erected a mill and, although

Pocahontas County

some of the pioneers had to come thirty miles, they considered it an easy task to provide bread. This mill was located on Knapps Creek. Although over a hundred years have passed, yet a portion of the old mill and a trace of the race still remain. Mr. Lightner sold this old mill to John Bradshaw who in turn sold it to Henry Harper. The buhrs are now in an old mill in Highland County, Virginia.

The first tub mill and saw mill in the Greenbank District was owned and operated about 1800 by the pioneer Wooddells, Probably Joseph Wooddell, the Revolutionary War veteran. A tilt hammer was installed at this mill which was very much needed by the pioneers in making tools and implements of iron and steel.

In the year 1822 Patrick Bruffey purchased from Jacob Gillispie and James Tallman one hundred thirty-four acres of land which was a part of the Thomas Jarvis Grant of four hundred acres. He built a grist mill and a saw mill and carved a mill race out of the hillside more than a quarter of a mile. In connection with the saw mill, he established a wagon shop, blacksmith shop, and supplied the neighborhood with wagons. The late William Sutton of the Hill neighborhood learned the wagon makers trade under Patrick Bruffey and carried on the work long after the Civil War. Patrick Bruffey was Magistrate in the

Poeshontas - 7

West Virginia Writers' Project
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Date 1/31/41

Tilt-hammer

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Research Worker Samuel G. Smith

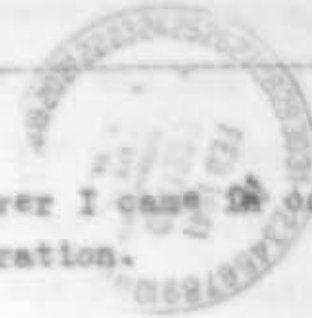
Typist Samuel G. Smith

Date Typed 1/30, 31/41

Source John B Buckley, A.W Lightner
Nancy A McNeill, John G McNeill
And Willis McKeever all of Buckeye, W.Va
Court Records, Marlinton, W.Va.

Date Filed

Have been working on this at spare time whenever I came in contact
with anyone that knew or had heard of this operation.



Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
Tilt-hammer.

On January 9th 1835 William Cochran bought 44 acres from John and Mary Buckley of Buckeye or at that time known as Buckeye Cove the deed was witnessed by William Young, R. Armentrout and John Gilford the BUCKLEYS appeared before William Cackley and William Gibson on April 17 1835 and had these two gentlemen to swear them to the papers as Gibson and Cackley were Justice of the peace and was recorded by H. M. Moffett Clerk.

After settling here Cochran went to work to earn a living and he being a blacksmith decided to put in a Tilt-hammer which was run by water-power by harnessing Swago Creek, he dug a race from the upper end of what is known as the Shelton place to the lower end or about opposite the N. C. Rogers home of today and it was here that he built his Tilt-hammer with which he made Horse Shoes, horse shoe nails, rod iron or in fact most anything anybody wanted that could be made of ~~of~~ iron and this iron was hauled in by wagon and team from where ever he could get it as steel at that time was very hard to get and came in large pieces that required lots of work to work it down.

This tilt-hammer worked from the waterwheel soon as the water was turned on the hammer started in a striking manner and with the anvil directly under you had a heavy striking force, the iron was heated and the hammers in motion all the attendant had to do was turn the iron in the desired position and it was in this manner that the nails and shoes were made and anything else he received an order for and ~~it was~~ his shoes and nails were bought by farmers from Swago and the surrounding territory and this was one of the first industries in Pocahontas County.

Cochran sold out on Swago Creek and moved to Stony Creek in 1859 and Anthony (Tone) Lightner operated the Tilt-hammer for a short time making iron wedges, horse shoes, and nails that he sold but about 1861 he quit blacksmithing and went to Clarksburg and did some work during the war and died and was buried there.

Information-Willis McKeever and John C McNeill Buckeye. W. Va.
Sancy A McNeill, John B Buckley, & A. W Lightner.

Court Record Marlinton. W. Va.

West Virginia Writers' Project
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Research Worker Samuel G Smith Date Research Taken I/15 & 16/41
and before

Typist Samuel G Smith Date Typed I/17/41

Calvin Price. Marlinton

Sources G. D & John C McNeill Buckeye. Date Filed

John B Buckley & Willis McKeever
Buckeye. W. Va.

Court Records. Marlinton. W. Va.

Have been gathering information on this operation for some time
but was not able to finish until this time.

Mr. Calvin Price requested that this powder mill operation be written
up and sent in for publication in the history.



1/41

Thomas McNeill was born 1747 and died 1803¹⁸⁰³ and was a pioneer settler in Pocahontas County as he settled on Swago Creek in 1768 and married Mary Hughes, took up what was known as a tomahawk claim from the Indians and lived on what is a part of the McClintic farm today (one of my informants John C McNeill tells me that Thomas had learned the powder trade from his father as it seemed to be a trade carried on by the McNeills even in Scotland before they came to America, and that as soon as he got located here he began to make gunpowder.))

In 1770 Jonathan his son was born and he too learned the powder trade from his father, he married Pheobe Moore the daughter of Moses Moore on Stony Creek and they put in a Grist Mill at what is now the entrance to the McClintic farm, built a stone house where he had a loom that he wove with also he made dyes and was noted for his famous Indigo Blue. at the same time he put in a powder plant or mill on what is known as the Shelton place.

To make this powder required sulphur, charcoal and saltpeter the sulphur he got from Staunton Va. and transported it in to this county on pack horses, the charcoal he got from burning willow wood or could use buckeye wood but not so good, the saltpeter he got was from the salt petre cave on the McClintic farm and not far from the residence of Lee Overholt, this was gotten from the rich limestone soil found in this particular cave, this earth he put in to a hopper like the old ash hopper and poured water over it caught the contents and boiled it down and had the finished product salt petre. After this he took the three and mixed them together and this mixing was done by water power after it was thoroughly mixed and dried it was put through a grinding process and one day he had put in a portion to grind and according to my informants (Calvin Price, J.C & G.D McNeill) it was always thought some mischievous boys put a piece of flint in the mill and when the owner was about half way to the house going for dinner the whole thing blew up mill and powder and all.

Upon interviewing John C McNeill he tells me that it was his impre-

Commerce & Industry.S.G Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.
- Gun Powder-

It is known that Thomas furnished gun powder to the soldiers of the Revolutionary War, and that Jonathan furnished it for the war of 1812 but G.D McNeill says he never heard this but it could be.

They sold this powder to the neighbors and traded it for corn and wheat and it is possible that some of it was traded to the Indians as this powder operation was the only industry in this section at that time.

Jonathan had a loom and wove lincy that was used in the making of dresses and other garments for women, he wove genes for mens shirts and trousers they also wove Coverlets and some of these are found today at the home of John C McNeill a decendant of Thomas and Jonathan McNeill, Jonathan spent a great deal of his time in the old stone house experimenting with coloring material and as he was known far and near as the weaver and dyer as well as the man who made gunpowder. A grist mill was run in connection with the powder plant and in his will Oct. 13. 1825 he willed to his wife Phoebe Moore McNeill his grist mill and she had to run it day and night to avoid grinding on the sabbath she was known near and far as the honest miller. John McNeill a son of Jonathan was born 1792 and he to made powder and sold it among his neighbors. so it seemed to be a trade that each generation took up as we have here three different generations that made powder some just for their own use while others made it in quantity for sale and trade with the help of the water power they were able to mix and

grind it in quantity and were able to supply the demand at all times.
From all the information obtainable this powder plant was in

operation in the last of the seventeenth century and carried on up in the eighteenth century by the McNeills at this same location, the Shelton place on Swago Creek. This and the old grist mill along with the stone house used for weaving and dyeing is a historical landmark of this County. G.D McNeill .A.W McNeill are some of the older McNeills living in and near Buckeye that are direct decendants as well as the dec-

endants of M.W. (Dock) William C .E.G James McNeill .
Calvin Price Marlinton.
Information. Court Records Marlinton. W.Va. D McNeill. Buckeye. W.Va.
Willie McKeever. Buckeye and John B Buckley Buckeye. John C McNeill Buckeye.

Pocahontas

Chapter 7

NORTH FORK MILL BURNS

Dear Cal:

Saturday night, March 2nd, 1940, was the time that the North Fork Flour Mill was utterly and completely destroyed by fire. This disaster is considered the most unfortunate event of a calamitous nature that has afflicted the Greenbank neighborhood since the days of the Civil War. Mr. J. B. Orndorff owner of the mill had worked in the mill all day without fire. Different persons had passed the mill just after dark and saw no light or fire. The fire was first discovered about 7 p. m., by Clyde Gillisple and Cecil Arbogast who live nearby; the whole inside was a mass of flames when first discovered. In less than a half hour's time the whole structure was a mass of ruined machinery, cog wheels, shafting, fly wheels, and mill stones. The entire loss is estimated at more than \$10,000. The two turbine driving wheels are still in the water deck in regular arrangement. This mill has been the main stand by for the neighborhood for a period of about 60 years. The entire neighborhood sustains a sense of loss and sympathize with Mr. Orndorff in his great loss.

This mill was erected by Uriah Hevener, Sr., in the year 1879, on the site of the old Bruffey flour mill. Patrick Bruffey had erected a flour mill on the same site about the year of 1825 which was driven by an over shot water wheel; he also had an up and down saw mill driven by the same water power arrangement, which had been supplanted by a new saw mill in the 1870's.

In the last few years the mill was operated under the firm name of The North Fork Milling Company, but was known far and near as the Hevener Mill. It was erected when the famous white pine trees were plentiful and all the frame work was hewed and dressed by hand, all the framing was mortised, draw bored and pinned with locust pins. No spikes were used in the frame work. The entire building was four stories high including the basement and was a complete master piece of architecture. The modern carpenter would always stand in admiration, and marvel at its perfect construction.

The services of James Elliott was secured to build the mill and with the help of Eldridge Brown and a Mr. Propps did all the carpenter work on the building. Charles P. Brown laid the foundation and did the mason work. The machinery was put in perfect running condition by a millwright by the name of Corann and Robert J. Brown, carpenter helper.

Many different millers operated the mill during the past sixty years. Perhaps Robert N. Gum worked in the mill longer than the other miller.

In keeping up with industry, and in view of the needs of the Greenbank community it may be observed that the old Bruffey mill and the Hevener mill was a center of industry and had their place of importance in the niche of the history of the Greenbank community.

James Elliott, the master mechanic, of the building was a soldier of the Indian wars; was a private under the command of General George A. Custer, and General Reno. He was with Reno's army when General

Custer's Company was massacred in 1876. Mr. Elliott's affidavit was taken by Squire John P. Townsend in 1926 for the purpose of securing a pension for Mr. Elliott as an Indian war veteran. Mr. Elliott died before the papers were ratified and sanctioned by the U. S. Government. Mr. Elliott was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War under command of General Kirby Smith, and Dick Taylor in the South West. After the war Mr. Elliott worked his way from Mississippi to Iowa, and from there in company with a man named Reynolds, went to the Dakotas on a trapping expedition, and thereby enlisted in Custer's Army.

R. W. Brown.
Greenbank, W. Va.

Pocahontas Times

3/22/40

Aschbacher
West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce And Industry

Date 5/10/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

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Source C.W. Price. George Hefner &

Date Filed _____

Viola Kee & T.S McNeel Marlinton.W.Va.

W.G McKeever & Nancy A McNeill Buckeye.W.Va.

Maggie Ruckman, J.L McNeel & Anna Wallace Millpoint.W.Va.

R.W Brown Greenbank.W.Va.

W.Va. Geological Survey. Paul Price.



Force And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

Continued from last week
Broad Ford Sandstone coming from the Jerico Flat and the Kee Flats

near the top of Price hill were used in the Court-House also the piers of the old covered bridge across the Greenbrier at Marlinton came from Jerico and Kee Flats.

About 1775 John Bruffey came to America from Ireland he having learned the stone mason trade before coming to this country and it was he and his ancestors that did most of the stone work in Pocahontas County in the latter part of the 17th century and the 18th he and his sons were noted for their fine stone work and it was John Bruffey with the assistance of his sons John, Patrick, and Mark that built the rock house for Jonathan McNeill near the entrance of McClintic Farms on Swago Creek, they lived in the Swago Community at that time. John Bruffey was a noted stone worker and today you find many of the tombstones that were erected from 1775 to 1807 were made by him from rock from various parts of the county but the most of them came from Bruffeys Creek you find these stones in the McNeel cemetery in the Little Levels also at the Buckman Cemetery above Millpoint and at the Cloonan or Kee graveyard on the Kee Flats. He also made what was known as grave rocks out of our native sandstone, the shape of a casket. These were placed over the grave and made a shelter from the storms and today you find some of these rocks at the McNeel Cemetery between Millpoint and Hillsboro. He no doubt would have more of his work to

Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

ire but he met a sudden death at Millpoint in 1807, he and his family at that time lived at Swago now known as Buckeye and he took a grist of corn to Millpoint to the mill for the family bread supply and it was told the writer by an informant and relative that he was watering his horse when a deer jumped from the bank of the creek into the water and frightened his horse causing him to be thrown off hitting his head on a rock causing almost instant death, his sons followed this profession for many years and Murry Bruffey son of younger John Bruffey traveled about over the county making monuments and today you find some of his work in most of the older graveyards started years ago.

Patrick Bruffey located in the northern part of Pocahontas County near Greenbank, this was about 1822 he erected a grist mill getting the mill stones above Pine Grove on Mill Stone Run or Rileys Creek above Pine Grove these stones are still in use in the North Fork Mill, Bruffey later became Sheriff of Pocahontas County, he died 1853.

A fort was built of native sandstone at the forks of North Fork and Deer Creek about 1775 for the protection of the settlement from the indians in later years the foundation rock and the chimney rock were moved by Peter Terrick and used in dwellings of the North Fork territory in later years.

X George Overholt of Buckeye was a stone mason built hundreds of cellars and chimneys out of our native sand rock back in the 80s and up in the 90s most of these rock were taken from quarries in the Lee Plate either the Fleming

Force and Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.
quarry, the Lightner quarry or on Price Run known as Jerico Flats, what is
said to be the oldest out^{stone} chimney in this section of the county is in the
Kee Flats built about 1800 by George Kee who came from Tyrone Ireland in
1780 he built a double log house and had this chimney built from rock from
the Flemings Quarry now owned by John McNeill after his passing his son John
John lived in the log house which was burned during the war about 64 and to-
day this chimney is in use at the same location being rebuilt in 1935 by Ge-
orge Hefner this property is owned by the decendants of George & John Kee
Namely Viola Kee and Middie McLaughlin. On the Kee Mountain is a sandstone quarry of
thinner rock that have been worked out by stone mason for hearth rock that
were used with the old fireplace so common in all the older houses of Pocaho-
ntas County and especially the ones of the rural sections.

George Hefner who lives on Elk Mountain learned the Stone Mason tra-
de when quite a young man working with George Overholt he has built 113 sand
rock chimneys to this time and has made and erected some 10 to 12 tombstones
to the Hefners the rock used came from Elk Mountain and the farm of A.W Lig-
htner of near Buckeye. William C McNeill also cut tombstones from our native
sandrock he lives on Dry Creek of Swago these stones or markers were made about
1900 and some of them are up in the cemetery at the lower church at Buckeye.

William and Price McComb built the stone house at the McNeel Mill
property at Millpoint for Sampson Mathews or possibly before this time.

Merce & Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.
Sandstone both of the cut rock and creek rock type have been used very extensively in W. Va. and especially in Pocahontas County in building rock or stone houses these rock are used for the outer walls, some of these houses are found at our state parks.

X Much of Pocahontas Countys secondary road system is made from sand rock that is covered with slate and shale which is found in many sections of the County especially at Huntersville and Frost where our best shale is found, the state road from Marlinton to Greenbank is made of gravel known as Chert that was taken from the farms of Sherman Gibson at Frost and W.H Earlow at Huntersville

State route 219 known as Seneca Trail between Hillsboro and Millpoint was made of limestone this distance is 2 mile and this stretch of road is said to be the longest stretch of straight road in the state.

X Pocahontas County has a sandstone on Droop Mountain that is a good glass sand remarkably pure sand. Other sand found in the county is not as pure but has been used very extensively in cement work especially in R R bridge piers, sidewalk construction, the bridge across the Greenbrier at Marlinton and Buckeye were both made with Pocahontas sand and river gravel, the sidewalks in the town of Marlinton are mostly made of sand and gravel taken from the bed of the Greenbrier River.

X Pocahontas County has limestone, both the Patton and Union are comparatively pure that could be made into Portland cement. This rock is found near

Arce & Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County. Page 5
the head of Locust Creek and scattered over a greater part of Little
levels and sections of Swago Creek therefore our rock formations hold a
great future in both a commercial and industrial way as much of them are un-
developed largely because there is lack of men that follow the stonemason work
as the many buildings and walls along the state roads attract the attention of
tourists from outside the state and they marvel at the beautiful scenery in
our high mountain peaks covered with rock cliffs and trees, these areas are
covered with wild flowers and other plant life that helps make our county one
of the most beautiful counties in the state, with much of her natural resources
undeveloped.

In many sections of Pocahontas County you find shale and clay suitable
for the manufacture of brick and tile the richest section of this formation
is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Buckeye, however it is found on Browns Mountain and on
the west fork of the Greenbrier River north of Durbin to the Randolph County
line. The true fire clay that resists high furnace temperature has never been
discovered in this county however they use a red clay in the building of cut
stone cellars that when dry becomes very hard and holds the rock in the walls
many of such cellars are found over Pocahontas County especially at the older
homesteads in the rural sections.

Pocahontas County has many mineral springs the ones most used are the
Bece Fritchard spring or artesian well just below Runmore, from this spring

Commerce and Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
Mineral water is bottled and sold also in the summer months it is delivered to Marlinton to many people as their main drinking water this water is principally calcium, magnesium, and sulphur. Minnehaha Springs the largest of our mineral springs has been developed into a summer resort and known far and near for its swimming pool, this pool along with the hotel attract many people from this state and from outside as the water is pure with very high mineral purity and content. The Drop Mountain Spring located on the eastern end of Drop Mountain and owned by Emma Outlip has been used by many people in the county as well as many from outside the county and state and many people report cures from this water in many internal disorders. Most of our mineral springs lack development while others lack roads to take mineral water seekers to them therefore our mineral springs are very much undeveloped save for the ones mentioned that have given results.

Information. C.W Price. Marlinton. W. Va.

George Hefner. " "

Viola Fee. " "

W.G McKeever. Buckeye. W. Va.

Nancy A McNeill. " "

Maggie Ruckman. Millpoint. W. Va.

Sketches from R.W Browns history of Greenbank community.
W. Va. Geological Survey. By Paul Price.

T.S McNeel. Marlinton. W. Va.

J.L McNeel and Anna Wallace Millpoint. W. Va.

Subject Commerce & Industry.
Tanneries.

Typist Samuel G Smith

Date * 4/18/41

Date Research Taken 4/14, 15, 16, 17, /41

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Date Filed



erice And Industry. Samuel G Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

The first tannery or old time Tan Yard of much size was erected by James Smith who came to Pocahontas County from the state of Virginia and near Staunton, he having learned the tanners trade there and set out across the Allegheny mountain for a country suitable for the location of a tannery the site he chose was along the Seneca Indian trail and later became known as Millpoint and it was at this point that he stopped rigged up a corn mill and a Tan Yard this was about 1828 to 30 and the tannery was located between Stamping Creek and the foot of the hill near the C.M Wallace residence and it was here that James Smith put into practice what he had learned in Va. as he had learned the tanners trade there from an old tanner with years of experience.

From this James Smith to 1941 we have had four generations of Smiths that were tanners Isaac a son of James had a tanyard, his son Edgar followed his ancestors and he too was a tanner and today we find his son Benton with an up to date tannery on Route 219 near the Marvin Chapel Church and the Ruckman Schoolhouse, the building is a cement block structure with concrete vats, his output of finished leather is between 350 and 450 hides a year some of which are tanned with the hair on while the rest are made into leather of one kind and another is most of the deer hides are bought by craftsman who make leather goods by hand is some of them are made into leather jackets that are known as the buckskin jacket. Most of the Smith Tannery leather is bought by makers of high priced le-

--- Tannery-
Force And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

goods as they prefer the slow process tanning as it takes 6 months to tan hide and some longer, the bark used is a local product as he uses Chestnut Oak bark that is dried and ground in a crude grinding machine of his own make using parts of an old grinder used by his grandfather the late Isaac Smith, that had a tan yard on the Greenbrier River between Watoga and the mouth of Stamping Creek, this yard was built by James Smith after he left Millpoint about 1860.

James Smith had 5 boys of these 3 were tanners Isaac, Jacob and Joseph William was a harness and saddle maker and Pleas was a doctor, Isaac operating at his fathers yard on the river, Jacob had a tan yard at Edray and Joseph S. had a tan yard on his farm in the glade pasture near his residence now occupied by E.P Kramer.

Most of the leather tanned by the Smiths was either made up into shoes or put into harness and saddles however some of the leather was bought for use elsewhere in the state by shoemakers and harness makers.

42 Another tan yard of notice was built and run by the late George R Curry and Ellis McCarty of the Levels District it was built on the Curry farm on a small stream that finally sank into the mountain near the Poor Farm, this is on the road leading to Beard and Denmar the Curry farm is now owned by Richard McCarty. Curry was a shoemaker by trade therefore had a ready market for his leather by making it into shoes and selling them at that time most men wore boots and Curry was known for his long wearing shoes and boots, besides the leather he

made into harness and repair work on shoes harness. This tannery was being operated in the 80s and early 90s.

Often times the vats were visited when the leather was ready to come out to be worked and finished these visitors always picked the best side of leather they could find, the tanner would miss his leather but very seldom knew where it went as this always took place at night this got to be a regular practice and no doubt caused some of these tan yards to cease operation all these tan yards were in Little Levels District but the one operated by Jacob Smith at Edray.

3 The first tannery or old time tan Yard of any size in the upper end of the county was near Greenbank where first class upper and sole leather was made by Charles P Brown this was about 1850 he operated here for a time but sold out and moved over on North Fork and located another tannery this tannery was kept in operation until about 1870 when he quit the tanners trade and followed stonemason work the rest of his life, his old homestead is now owned by his grand son Walter Brown.

Shortly after this tannery went out of business George Curry started a tan yard in the town of Greenbank he operated here for a time and moved to Little Levels District not far from Hillsboro and opened up a tan yard leaving the one at Greenbank to his brother Jas. H. Curry who operated it for years using his finished leather in shoes and harness.

About 1889 H. J. Sutton, F. C. Sutton and O. W. Ruckman formed a partner-

doing business under the firm name of Sutton, Ruckman & Company, and built the largest old time tannery that was in the county at that time. At this tannery they turned out several hundred finished sides of leather that they used in making shoes and harness they specialized in heavy logging harness as the lumber business was at high tide at this time, some of these harness are still in use by farmers around Greenbank as they were the best of harness made from the best of leather.

This tannery was on the S.J Sutton farm on North Fork who settled here about 1870 and was part of the Godlip Hartman tract granted to him in 1804 for a sugar camp this Sutton homestead is now owned by the heirs of the late F.C Sutton.

An up to date and modern tannery is now operated by Kerth Snyder on a branch of Duncans Run he buys raw green hides and after they are tanned sells part of the leather but a greater part is used by him in harness and repair work however he does lots of custom work tanning for half of the leather the farmer using his part for repair work to his harness and any other use that can be found for leather on the farm as the leather tanned by Benton Smith at Millpoint and Kerth Snyder at Greenbank has more life and will outwear most leather that is tanned by the quick process and shipped in to the county the main trouble is getting hides that have been properly skinned and handled.

Along with this tanning comes the sheep pelt which when properly han-

led and finished makes a beautiful rug or chair back and cushion or for the car seat Benton Smith specializes in tanned Sheep hides these he sells to the tourist trade from this state and many others from coast to coast also Deer and Bear hides tanned with the hair on are bought by the traveling motorist as Benton runs a filling station along with his tannery and his tanning has attracted the tourist ~~XXXX~~ passing through W.Va. and Pocahontas County and in this way he has a market for his products as he not only sells leather but makes fancy belts that are bought by the traveling public.

Benton Smith is one of the first enrolled members in the Associated Craftsmen of W.Va. a newly organized guild of native craftsmen whose handwork has character and integrity, the association hopes to provide better hides and to create a better outlet for his products.

The modern tannery or tan yard plays a very important part in the rural communitys of Pocahontas County as the farmer can bring in his cow and sheep hides and in less than a year has finished leather to repair his harness do the work himself thereby saving a considerable sum and keeps the money at home and this helps home industry in which tanning is an important one. Thus the passing of the crude outdoor tan yard to the more modern ones of today.

Information. Pocahontas Times issue Oct. 31/40

R. W. Brown. Arbovale. W. Va.

Benton Smith. Millpoint. W. Va.

March 5, 1940

-1-

Chapter 4- Section 4 - Part a.

Tanning was quite an industry from the time of the first pioneer. Great skill was attained by the pioneer in curing the skins so as to make them soft and pliable, that they might be used in making different items of clothing, such as pants, caps, moccasins, and many other things.

The first tannery or tan yord operated by the people of the Greenbank Community was on land in the possession of Jacob Rambaugh, which was prior to 1800. The old tanner's name was Taber. He was a hatter by trade - made fur caps, moccasins, and buck skin pants. His tanning vats were large troughs, and a certain kind of bark, roots and herbs were used in dressing the hides, which accounts for his locating so far in the mountains.

The first tannery or old time tan yard of any consequence where first class upper and sole leather was manufactured was owned and operated by Charles P. Brown, who purchased the James Townsend patent of eighty-eight acres from James B. Campbell in the year of 1850, and erected his tannery that year. He kept the tannery in operation about six years when he sold out and moved across on North York where he located another tannery. This was at the east end of the Solomon Conrad lands. This tannery was kept running until about 1870, when he quit the tanner's trade and followed the stone mason's trade, for the rest of his life. He built foundations and stone chimneys all over the community.

about the year 1889, S. J. Sutton, F. C. Sutton,

and O. W. Ruckman formed a partnership under the name Sutton, Ruckman and Company, and erected the largest old time tannery in the County. At this tannery several hundred hides would be tanned dressed and finished into first class harness and upper leather each year for a period of about twenty-five years. In connection with the tannery, they made shoes and heavy logging harness for the lumber companies. This tannery was on the lands of S. J. Sutton.

West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Pocahontas County History
Chapter 8 Section 28

Date May 3, 1941

Research Worker Juanita S. Dilley

Date Research Taken i have worked
on this most of this
week.

Typist Juanita S. Dilley

Date Typed May 2, 3, 1941

Source. _____

Date Filed _____

Deed books 44, 67, 45, 49, 43, 41, 56,

Bear, Sec. and Treas. of Pocahontas



Juanita S. Dilley
Pocahontas County
April 25 ~~30~~ 1941
Chapter 8 section 2e

Telephones

Marlinton and Stony Creek Mutual Telephone Co.

Certificate of Incorporation

March 20, 1909

I-Stuart F. Reed, Secretary of the state of West Virginia, hereby certify that an agreement duly acknowledged and accompanied by the proper affidavits, has this day been delivered to me, which agreement is in the words and figures following:

1. The undersigned agree to become a corporation by the name of the Marlinton and Stony Creek Mutual Telephone Company.
2. The Principal Place of Business of said corporation shall be located in the village of Onoto, in the county of Pocahontas, State of West Virginia. Said Corporation shall have no chief works.
3. The objects and purposes for which this corporation is formed are as follows:
To construct, maintain and own a system of telephone lines between Marlinton and Laurel Creek, and along the public roads and highways in and throughout Edray District.
To use and operate said lines to transmitt messages thereon for the benefit of its members and to hire to others the pribilage of using the same.
To arrange with other companies to transfer messages.
To do and perform all acts and things necessary and proper for carrying on the telephone business under the laws of West Virginia.
4. The amount of the total authorized capital stock of said

corporation shall be nine hundred (\$900.) dollars, which shall be divided into sixty (60) shares at the par value of \$15. each; of which a capital stock to the amount of \$225. has been subscribed and paid.

5. Incorporators

Names ----	Address -----	No. of shares
P. L. Carter	-- Onoto -----	1
T. S. Dulany	"	1
C. F. Gay	"	1
P. W. Sharp	"	1
M. W. Hill	"	1
J. A. White	"	1
W. G. Cochran	"	1
S. C. Baxter	"	1
Porter Mellison	"	1
C. C. Baxter	"	1
John Galford	"	1
Luther McNeill	"	1
A. S. Gay	"	1
M. F. Knapp	"	1
Wesley Barlow	"	1

6. This corporation is to expire in fifty years. Given under our hands this the 20th day of March, 1909.

Deed Book 44 page 443

In a deed made February 19, 1930, the Marlinton and Stony Creek Mutual Telephone Company conferred to the Pocahontas Telephone Company all of its poles, lines and right of ways leading from the town of Marlinton up the back road to Onoto and Woodrow including all its tools and equipment excepting side lines

to subscribers after said line passes upon the property of
said subscribers. for the sum of \$375.

signed, E. F. McLaughlin, President

Deed Book 67 page 138

Marlinton and Clover Lick Mutual Telephone Co.

Certificate of Incorporation

June 17, 1909

I Stuart A. Reed, Secretary of the state of West Virginia
certify that an agreement duly acknowledged and accompanied by the
proper affidavits, has this day been delivered to me, which
agreement is in the words and figures following:

1. the undersigned agree to become a corporation by the name of
the Marlinton and Clover Lick Mutual Telephone Company.
2. the principal place of business of said Corporation shall
be located in the village of Warwick. Its chief works shall
be located in the village of Warwick.
3. the objects and purposes for which this Corporation is
formed are as follows: To construct and maintain and own a
system of telephone lines between Marlinton and wansless and
along the public roads and highways in and throughout Maray
and Greenbank Magisterial Districts in Pocahontas County,
state of West Virginia.
To use and operate the said telephone lines to transmit
messages, etc.
4. the amount of the total authorized capital stock of said

Corporation shall be \$1,125.00 which shall be divided into 75 shares of the par value of \$15. each; of which authorized stock \$1,125.00 has been subscribed and the amount of \$660. has been paid.

5. Corporators--

Names	Address	No. of Shares
John A. Beverage	Clover Lick	15
A. N. Barlow	Warwick	15
G. S. Weiford	Warwick	15
George W. Allen	Warwick	15
Charles Shinaberry	Clover Lick	15

Deed Book 45 page 43

John A. Beverage became the first President of this company and G. S. Weiford was Secretary and Treasurer.

The chief works were later moved to Clover Lick and J. J. Coyner became president. This company owned the exchange at Clover Lick and had connection through the exchanges at Marlinton and Dunmore. They paid a certain amount for each telephone that made exchange through these switchboards.

In a deed made March 14, 1930 the Marlinton and Clover Lick Mutual Telephone Company conveyed to the Pocahontas Telephone Company all of its property and assets for \$575.00 telephone lines along the road from Marlinton through the brush settlerent to the Alderney school house, thence to Clover Lick, thence to Dunmore, and from Clover Lick across the mountain to Linwood. Signed by Charles Shinaberry, Pres.

Deed Book 67 page 251

Marlinton and Elk Mutual telephone co.

Certificate of Incorporation

April 26, 1912

1. The undersigned agree to become a corporation by the name of the Marlinton and Elk Mutual Telephone Company.
2. The principal place of business shall be in the village of Slaty Fork, West Virginia.
3. The chief works shall be in the village of Edray.
4. The total amount of Authorized capital stock shall be \$625. to be divided into 50 shares at \$12.50 per share.

5. Incorporators -

Names	Address	No. of shares
L. D. Sharp	Slaty Fork	1
Robert Gibson	Slaty Fork	1
John D. Gibson	Slaty Fork	1
W. L. Gay	Edray	1
Levi Gay	Edray	1

this company had lines beginning at Marlinton, along the Marlinton and Muttonsville Turnpike, now U. S. Route 219, through the village of Edray, thence to Slaty Fork.

this company is still a mutual company, and is the only mutual company still in existence in the county. All the others having sold their assets to the Kocahontas Telephone Company or having just been discontinued.

This company was organized for the convenience of its stockholders, who are all farmers, and not for profit.

The line was originally bought from the Ronceverte and Elkins telephone company, which agreement is in part as

follows: An Article of Agreement between the Ronceverte and Elkin Elkins Telephone Company, parties of the first part, and James Gibson, trustee for the Marlinton and Elk Mutual Telephone Company, of the second part. The parties of the first part agree to sell that portion of the system known as the Elk Line from where the line from Elk connects with the line running from Staunton, Virginia to Ronceverte, W. Va. on the Clover Lick road, but the parties of the first part reserve the right to put upon said poles either a grounded or metallic circuit if they so desire, said lines to be put on cross arms far enough below the present ones so as not to interfere with said service.

It is further agreed that the said trustee is purchasing said line for a company to be hereafter organized and they hereby bind said company to comply with the provisions of this agreement and by the proper officers after the company had been legally organized. signed by- A. W. Arbogast, Manager August 27, 1908. (Deed Book 43 page 428)

You will notice that though this line was purchased in 1908, the company was not fully chartered until in 1912.

the Pocahontas telephone company

Certificate of Incorporation

May 10, 1919

1. The incorporators shall become a corporation by the name of the Pocahontas telephone Company.
2. The principal place of business shall be at Marlinton.
3. To conduct a general business throughout the counties of Greenbrier, Pocahontas and Randolph in West Virginia and the counties of Bath and Highland in Virginia.
4. To erect its poles and wires along all public highways, roads, lanes, and alleys, with the consent of the Common Council and the consent of the County Court of these counties.

The said company may acquire by purchase or lease any of the property or right of ways of any other telephone companies, and make any contract with any other such companies consistent with the general laws of this state.

5. The total amount of the Authorized capital stock shall be \$15,000. divided into 1500 shares at \$10. per share.

6. Incorporators-

Names	Address	No. of shares
Dr. H. C. Solter	Marlinton	50
George P. Moore	Edray	50
Dr. J. W. Price	Marlinton	50
A. H. Williams	Marlinton	50
W. C. Householder	Marlinton	50

A. P. Edgar was appointed Attorney, and George P. Moore was the first President of the company.

Marlinton and Academy Mutual Telephone Company

The certificate of incorporation for this company cannot be found on record, but it was organized soon after the Marlinton, Knapps Creek and Dilley's Mill Company, probably late in the year of 1907, for on February 28, 1908 they appointed as their Attorney L. M. McClintic, and it was signed by J. L. McNeel, President, who no doubt was the first president of the company. (Deed Book 43, page 33)

On January 11, 1909 they purchased from the Moncove and Elkins Telephone Company the following assets: "All of their rights and titles to the telephone line beginning at Paynes store in the village of Academy (now Hillsboro) and extending with two wires to the foot of the mountain near Wallace Beards and with one wire by way of Lobelia to Jacox together with all the branch wires and connections of said line, and all rights and privileges owned by the said party of the first part, necessary for the operation of said line." by G. C. Mohn, President (Deed Book 44, page 207)

This was the only mutual telephone company in the Little Levels District, but its assets have been purchased by the Pocahontas Telephone Company, on July 1, 1932.

Clover Lick and Durbin Mutual Telephone Co.

I find nothing what ever recorded about this company, but J. H. Bear, Sec. and Pres. of the Pocahontas Telephone Co. tells me that their assets were purchased by them several years ago. This company served the eastern part of the Greenbank District.

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The mutual telephone companies came into existence to lower the telephone rates and to make it possible for more people to have telephones. They built the lines at a time when the poles could be gotten from their own wood lots at little or no cost. They were organized on a non-profit basis and the stockholders were assessed only enough to offset the actual year to year cost of operation. No money was put in the treasury and held as a capital for the time when the lines needed to be rebuilt, therefore, after around twenty years they found themselves confronted with the problem of rebuilding and found that they had no money with which to rebuild. Then the Pocahontas Telephone Company was incorporated and the mutual companies one by one sold their assets to this Company until at this time only the Marlinton and Elk Mutual Telephone Company remains in operation as a mutual company.

The mutual companies all used the grounded system of telephones, and all of the Corporators in these companies were local people who wished to make no profit therefrom. But the telephone, like most of our improvements, was begun by people from out of the county.

The party line of 25 years ago was no doubt the most used utility the people had at that time, not only for business but for pleasure as well. Farm homes kept in touch with each other by an almost daily telephone conversation. There are not more than half as many telephones in the county now as there were 25 years ago. Better roads and the automobile are part of the reason

At present (1941) the Pocahontas Telephone Company and the Marlinton and Elk Mutual Telephone Company are the only two in operation in the county. The Forestry Service, however, has about 60 or 70 miles of main pole line in the county with an exchange at Thornwood. Otherwise they have connection through the exchanges belonging to the Pocahontas Telephone Company. The Mutual Company has connection at Marlinton. The three exchanges or switchboards in the county are located at Marlinton, Cass and Millsboro.

The Pocahontas Telephone Company has raised the amount of Authorized Capital Stock from the original \$15,000. to \$35,000. Their present officials are: E. H. Williams, Pres.; S. B. Wallace, Vice-Pres.; and J. M. Bear, Sec. and Treas.

The old Monceverte and Elkins Telephone Company had lines to all of the principal places in the county. From Lewisburg to Marlinton, to Staunton, up through the county to Durbin, and from Marlinton to Elkins.